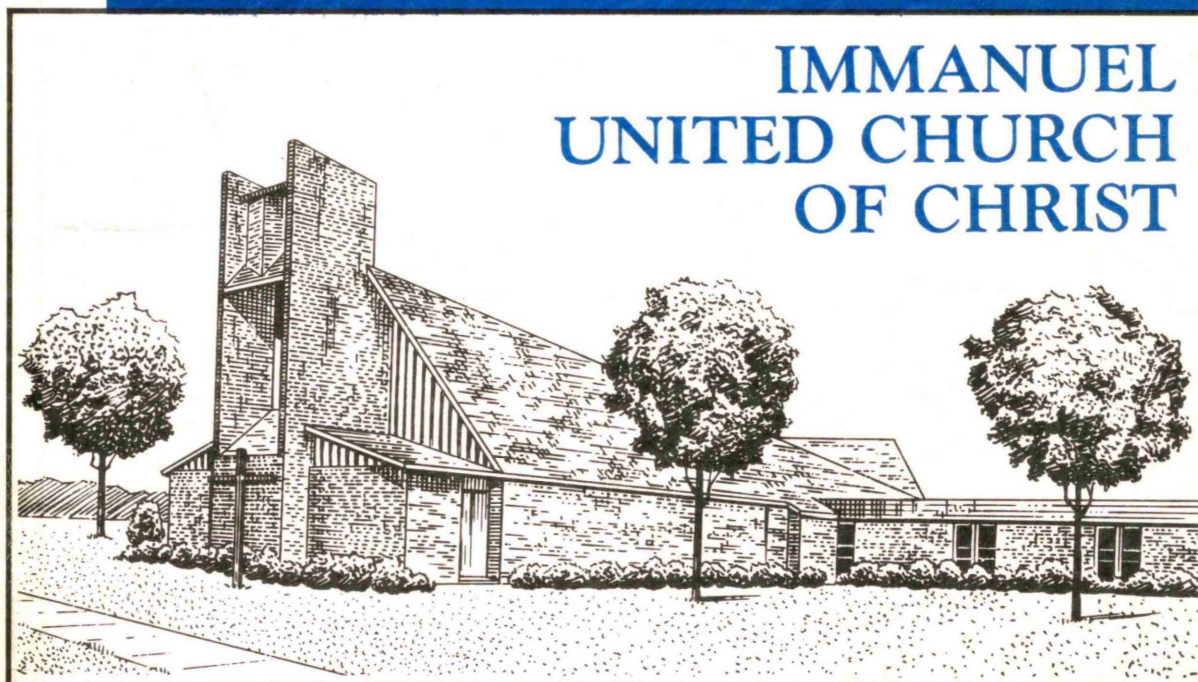


100th *ANNIVERSARY*



IMMANUEL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

1890 - 1990 GOD WITH US

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EIGH



Immanuel United Church of Christ

2201 Azalea Drive
Highland, Indiana 46322

AL DWENGER
PASTOR

PAIGE CANTWELL
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Church Phone
219-924-2100

June 15, 1993

*TO: Libraries of the Greater Calumet Area
Historical Society Collections
Church Related Archives
State and National Library Collections*

*RE: 100th Anniversary Historical Booklet of
The Immanuel United Church of Christ
Highland, Indiana*

Please find enclosed with this letter two (2) copies of:

*1890 - 1990 Historical Booklet
Commemorating the Centennial of
The Immanuel United Church of Christ of Highland*

We offer these booklets for your collection with hope that they will be available for the generations to come as they seek knowledge of their past, and as a reference for other groups that have histories that surround the first one hundred years of what was originally the Deutsche Evangelische Immanuel's Gemeinde and later the Immanuel Evangelical and Reformed Church of Hammond, Indiana.

If we can be of any assistance in cataloging or identifying any material contained in this booklet, please contact us in writing at:

*Immanuel United Church of Christ Historical Committee
2201 Azalea Drive, Highland, IN 46322*

If your library or group issues acknowledgements of donated materials, please direct that item to the same address. We are pleased to add this booklet to growing libraries of materials that preserve our todays for tomorrow's yesterdays.

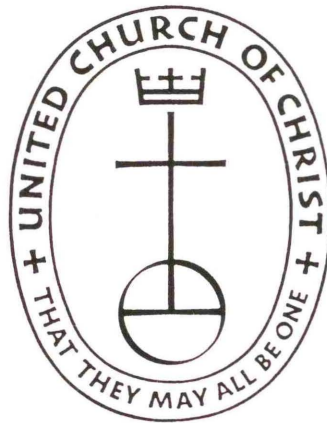
Your truly,

David E. Cole, Chair, Historical Committee

1890 - 1990

Historical Booklet
Commemorating The
Centennial Of

THE IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST OF HIGHLAND



Organized October 15, 1890

LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

GOD WITH US
100th ANNIVERSARY 1890-1990
IMMANUEL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dedication Page

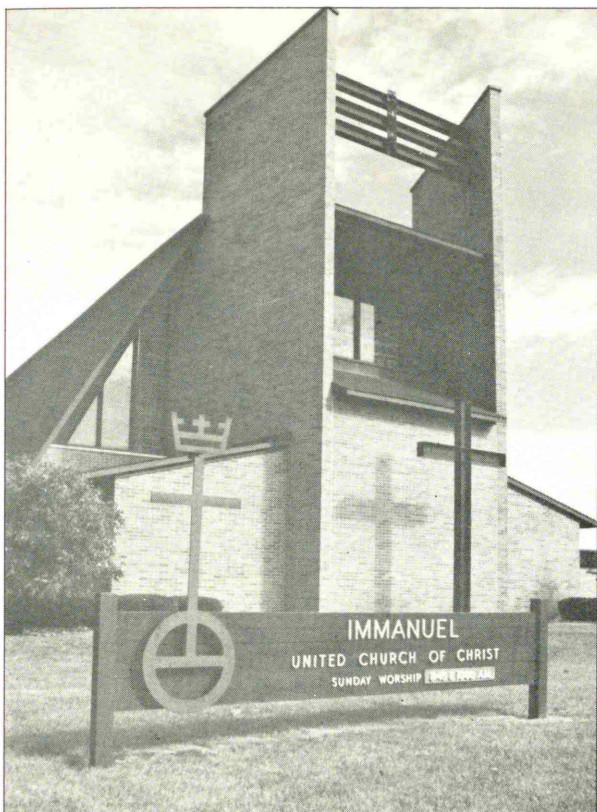
A volume many times the size of this little booklet could easily have been written concerning the history of the Immanuel Church from the earliest beginnings, in 1890, to the day when the 100th Anniversary is being observed.

If we were to dedicate this booklet to any group throughout the years, in the history of our church, it would unquestionably be dedicated to that loyal God-fearing group of forefathers who formed the solid foundation, through their belief and trust and faithful lives, upon which our church is built.

In presenting this souvenir booklet to the members and the friends of Immanuel Church, the committee expresses the sincere wish that it may be accepted as a tribute of abiding love for the men and women who by their services, sacrifices, and by their prayers laid a firm foundation one hundred years ago; that it may be received as an expression of deepest gratitude to those who through all the years have cheerfully built on this foundation; that it may be used as a challenge to us in the present day that we remain loyal to the church which our fathers built, and that we strive, by united and continued effort, to lead her into richer experiences in the Christian life and into greater achievements in the Kingdom enterprise.

We would express our deepest gratitude to the special Committee whose members searched diligently all available records and consulted carefully every known source of information for items of general interest and permanent value to be included in this brief historical sketch of Immanuel United Church of Christ.

This dedication is from Immanuel's
Diamond Jubilee Booklet.



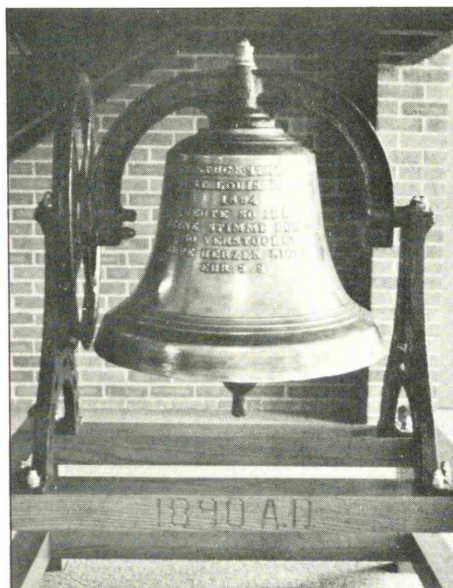
IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2201 AZALEA DRIVE
HIGHLAND, INDIANA

*"This is none other but the House of God,
and this is the Gate of Heaven."*

Genesis 28:17





"And his name shall be called Immanuel (which means God with us)"

Matthew 1:23

The One Hundredth Anniversary Prayer

Almighty God, who has build your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone, we give You praise and thanks!

In this year of celebration we give thanks that not only has a hundred years of rich history passed, but also that a future full of promise and hope is now just beginning.

In this the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and ninety we pause to give thanks and count our blessings at this milestone along our historical way. As a congregation we gather in this centennial year in respect and gratitude for those before us, joy and concern for those among us, and consideration for those who will fill the pews after us.

In the beginning, You so loved the world as to give your only begotten son, our Lord who challenged us to "follow" him. In faith Immanuel church has answered that challenge. By faith our forbears came to this country; buoyed by hope for a better life; driven by ambition for a greater future. By faith our forebears settled in new communities; envisioned dreams; were warmed by love of home, family and friends. By faith those same forebears like the planting of a mustard seed dreamed of a new church. And through work and witness, those early few planned it, built it, worshipped at it, and served from it. By faith they shared the truths of their God with others and continued to grow both in number and in service.

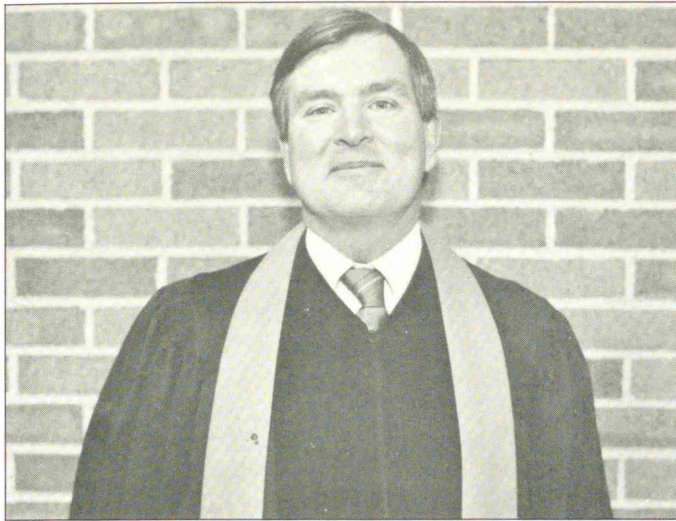
By faith today, saved by Your Son, led by Your Spirit, and filled with the courage of faith, we stand facing the future. Sanctify our desire to move forward into that future with continued faith, confidence, concern, hope and love. We pray that You, our God, will go forth with us even as you have gone forth with those of Immanuel these past one hundred years.

May this our bell which rang out first in 1894, continue this year to ring out in jubilation as a call to worship, and as an opportunity to grow and serve.

Blessed and praised be our God, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

In Christ, Jesus we pray. Amen.

"...we will serve the Lord, our God." Joshua 24:18



Message from Pastor Al

"...and his name shall be called Immanuel (which means, God with us)." Matthew 1:23.

We the people of Immanuel give thanks that "God is with us" as we celebrate with thanksgiving one hundred years of fertile history. It is with great humility, that we look back upon many blessings and many persons who have come before us in our rich history. And relying on the grace of God we look ahead to the future with joy, rededication, and a renewed sense of purpose. May God guide and direct us as we celebrate the past, and as we each anticipate and commit ourselves to a future in which the will of God is done at and through our Immanuel United Church of Christ.

It is with joy, hope, and in service to the Gospel of Christ Jesus that I continue to minister among you the people of Immanuel. May God abide with us, as we continue on together always in accord with the will and ways of our God.

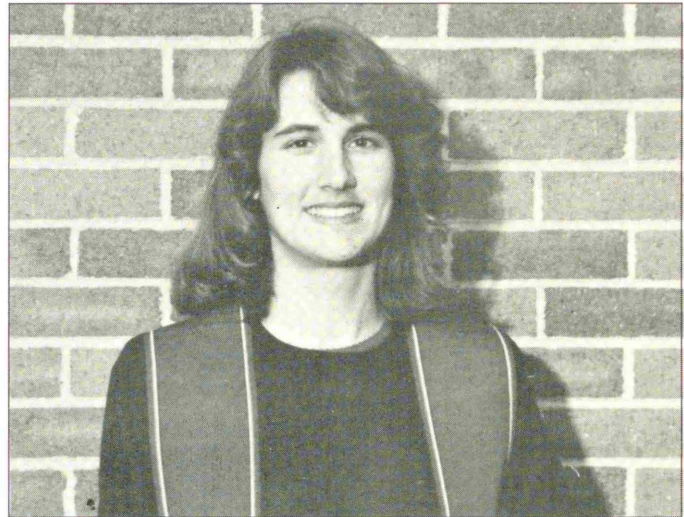
In God's love, Pastor Al Dwenger

A Message from Pastor Stephanie

God bless all of the members, both past and present, of Immanuel United Church of Christ as they celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the church's founding.

Through the years the people of Immanuel struggled, worshipped and loved together as they sought to be a community of believers which is the Church.

The people of Immanuel are a loving family of caring Christians who reach out to each other and the community. I am happy to be serving Immanuel United Church of Christ as Associate Pastor and I pray that the church will continue to grow in faith and love in Jesus Christ during the next 100 years.



Shalom, Pastor Stephanie Morath

Anniversary Program

Our Centennial Year will be celebrated in eleven special services spread over ten months in 1990 as follows:

- January 28: A son of Immanuel, John Faulstich, who is presently serving as Dean of Men at Rutgers University, will be our first guest to bring an anniversary message.
- February 25: Rev. Tim Kehl, who served as Associate Pastor of Immanuel from 1972-1976, currently Pastor of the Orchard Ridge U.C.C. in Madison, Wisconsin, will participate in the service. Later Rev. Kehl will share pictures taken while at Immanuel.
- March 25: Dr. Don Buckthal, Associate Conference Minister of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference, and Rev. Herbert Barten, former Senior Pastor of Immanuel from 1968-1980, will share the pulpit for a 100 year look.
- April 29: A son of Immanuel, Rev. Conrad Heisner, and former Associate Pastor of Immanuel from 1985-1988, who is now Pastor of Zion Lippe U.C.C. in Mount Vernon, Indiana, will deliver the Centennial sermon.
- May 6: A daughter of Immanuel, Rev. Dorothy Palmer, who served Peace U.C.C. in Merrillville, Indiana, in 1988, will share in the joy of celebration with us.
- May 20: A remembrance of Rev. John Stevesand, and Rev. Paul Schaeffer.
- June 17: A son of Immanuel, Rev. James Langdoc, who is presently serving as Associate Conference Minister of Illinois South Conference of the U.C.C. in Highland, Illinois, will deliver the anniversary message.
- July 22: We will have the privilege of hearing a former Associate Pastor of Immanuel from 1965-1969, Dr. Gerhard Schmidt, who has been serving as Pastor of Salem Church, Westphalia, Indiana.
- August 19: Rev. Debra Rosa-Meyer who served as Associate Pastor of Immanuel from 1982-1984 and now is Pastor of Zion U.C.C. in Dale, Wisconsin, will help us celebrate our Centennial Year.
- September 23: Rev. Clarence Sitler, who served as Interim Pastor of Immanuel from 1980-1981, will join us in celebration.
- October 14: On the Sunday closest to our charter date of October 15, we will have the privilege of having Dr. Ralph Quellhorst, Conference Minister of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference, bring us anniversary greetings. In the afternoon we will enjoy a banquet at the Munster Center for the Visual and Performing Arts followed by an anniversary program in the Theater of the Center.

In addition the following events and activities will be held during our Centennial Year:

- April 24: Tabca Women's Guild Luncheon.
- May 16: The Elmhurst College Glee Club will present a musical program.
- September 30: Immanuel will host the North-West Association Meeting.
- October 7: The Chanceleer Choir will enjoy a reunion.
- October 21: The Adult Choir will also enjoy a reunion.

A Commemorative "Keepsake" porcelain plate in terra cotta brown on ivory with a gold border will present an artist's drawing of the three churches in Immanuel's history will be offered for sale to members.

Immanuel Church Council 1990

President — Barbara Linos
Vice-President — James Graves
Secretary — Betty Volbrecht
Treasurer — Marjorie Bluhm

Chairman of Elders — Tony Lickwar
Chairman of Deacons — Marlene Herrin
Chairman of Trustees — Jack Michaels
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of Christian Education

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John Kovacik

Esther Plain
Marina Engel
Dennis Engel
Sandra Rusnack

Board Of Elders

Velma Hanish
Ed Hanish
Isabel Clary
Diane Misch

Paulette Lickwar
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Bob Moritz
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larry shields
Betty Chartos
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Board Of Trustees

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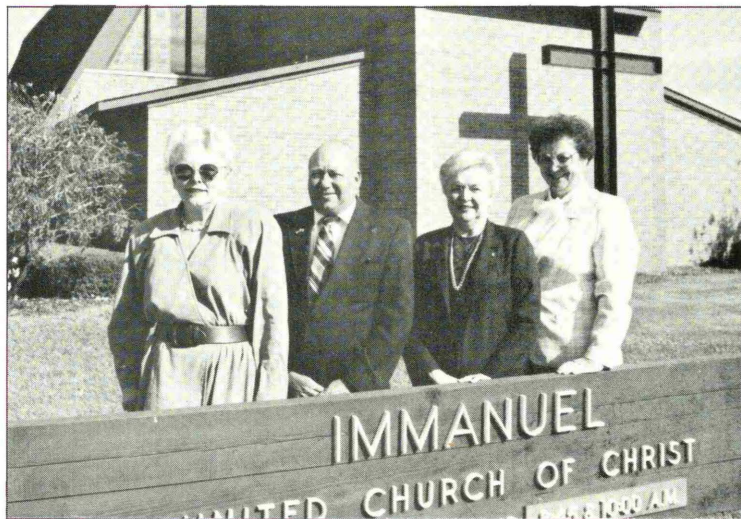
Robert Rusnack
John Goetzinger, Jr.

Roy Janich
Robert Linos

Christian Education Steering Committee

Gayle Slattery
Barbara Shutko

Jackie Dwenger
Sally Will



Council Officers

Betty Volbrecht - Secretary
James Graves - Vice President
Barbara Linos - President
Marjorie Bluhm - Treasurer

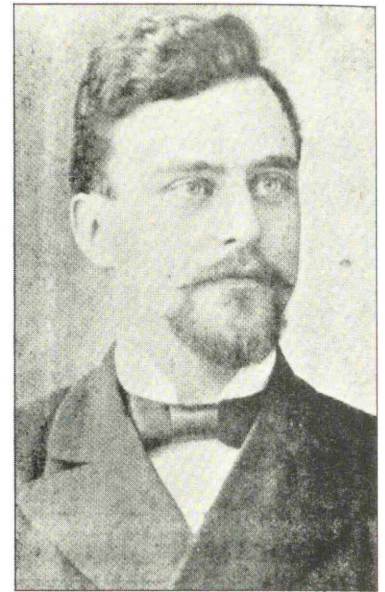
Our Former



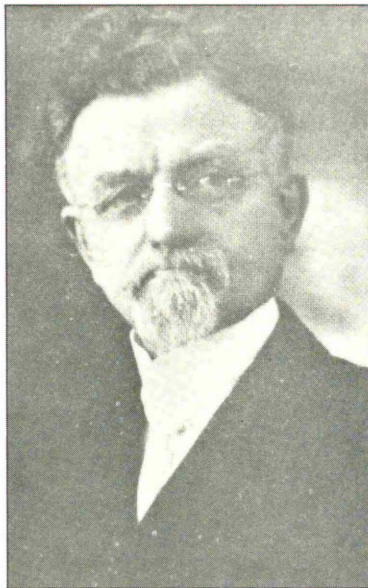
Rev. P. Weil
1890 - 1899



Rev. Theo. Braun
1899 - 1904



Rev. J. Lebart
1904 - 1905



Rev. E. Hugo
1914 - 1916



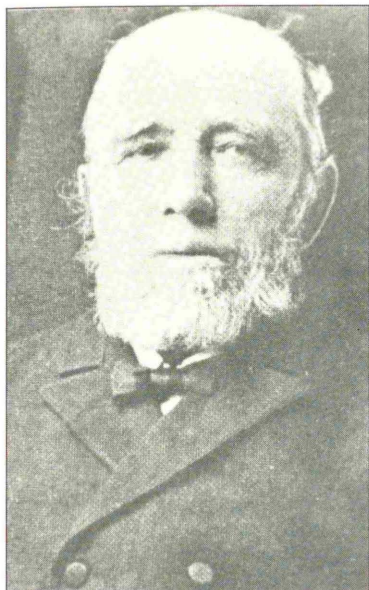
Rev. A. J. Hotz
1916 - 1919



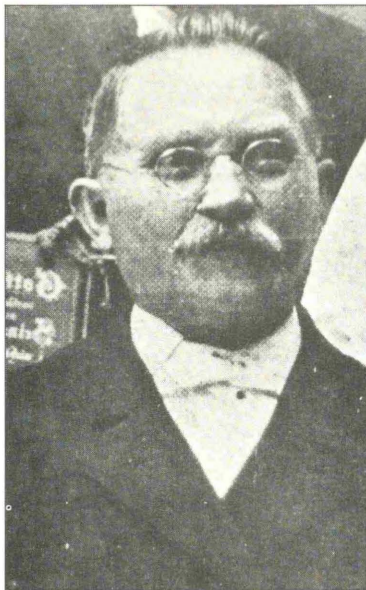
Rev. C. Schaeffer
1919 - 1935

"...I appoint you to serve and bear witness..." Acts 26:16

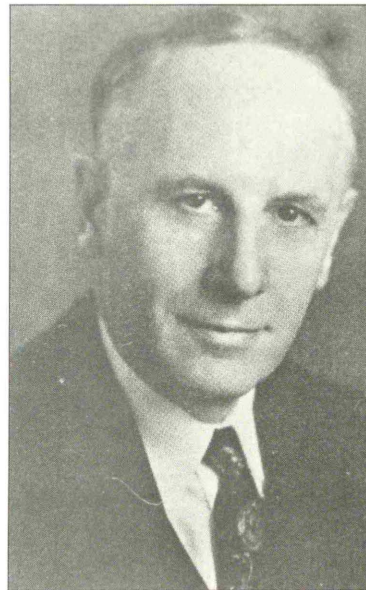
Pastors



Rev. V. Ziemer
1906 - 1908



Rev. C. A. Helberg
1908 - 1910



Rev. M. C. Hoefler
1910 - 1914



Rev. Paul G. Schaeffer
1936 - 1968
(Pastor Emeritus 1968 - 81)



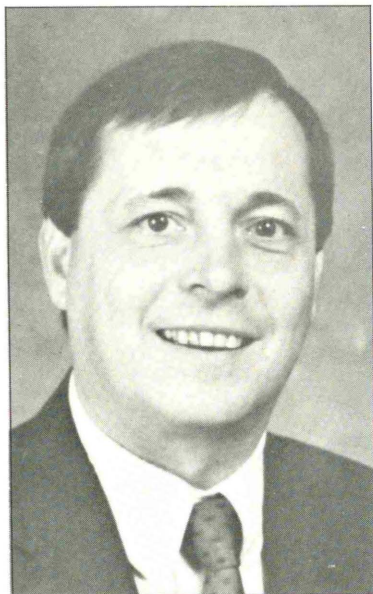
Rev. Gerhard Schmidt
1965 - 1969
(Associate)



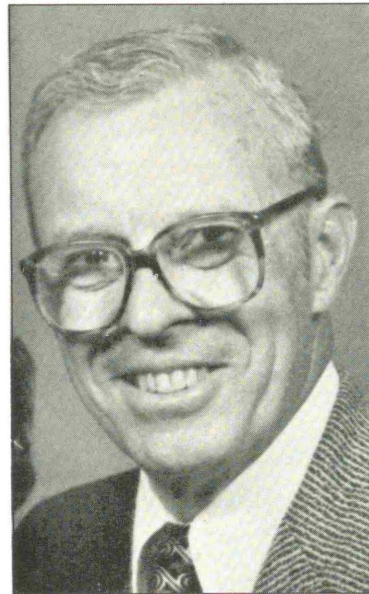
Rev. Herbert Barten
1968 - 1980

"Serve the Lord in sincerity and in faithfulness" Joshua 24:14

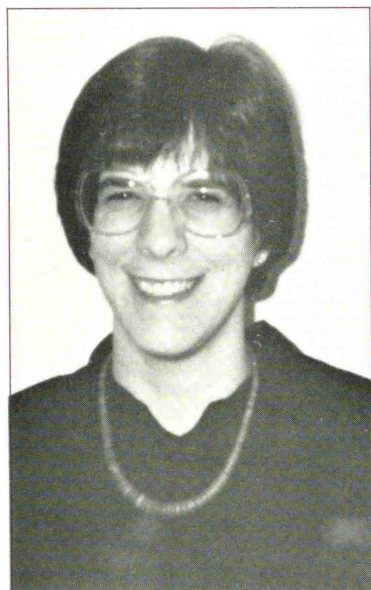
Our Former Pastors . . . Continued



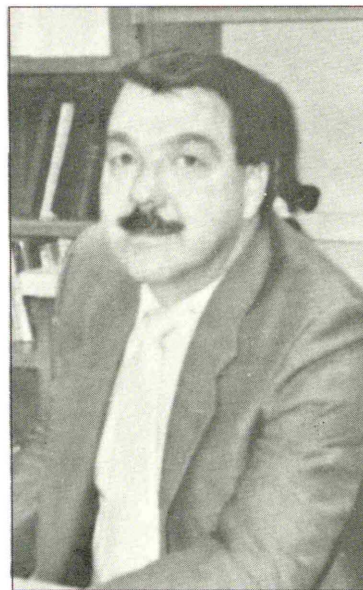
Rev. Timothy Kehl
1972 - 1976
(Associate)



Rev. Clarence Sitler
1980 - 1981
(Interim)



Rev. Debra Rosa-Meyer
1982 - 1984
(Associate)

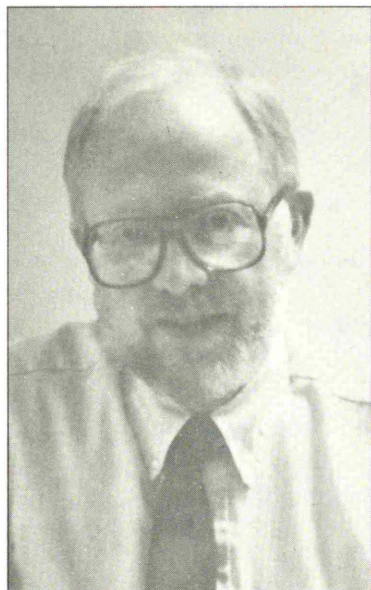


Rev. Conrad Heisner
1985 - 1988
(Associate and Son of Immanuel)

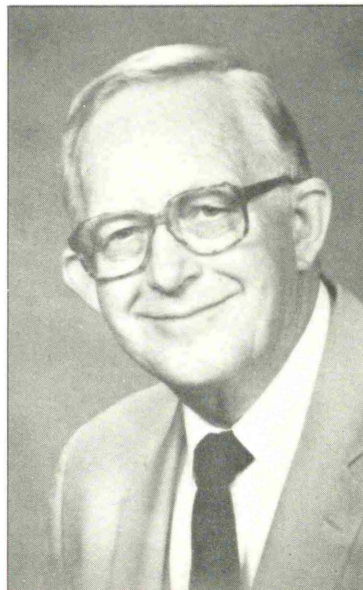
Not pictured: Rev. William Allen (Associate) 1969 - 1972 and
Rev. Allen Rinne (Associate) 1976 - 1980

"I have taught you the way of wisdom: I have led you in the paths of uprightness." Proverbs 4:11

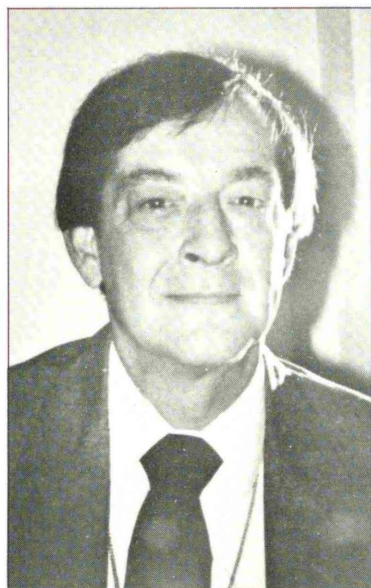
Sons And Daughter Of Immanuel



Rev. John Faulstich
Ordained Sept. 3, 1961



Rev. John Stevesand
Ordained July 19, 1955



Rev. James Langdoc
Ordained May 21, 1971



Rev. Dorothy Palmer
Ordained Nov. 1, 1987

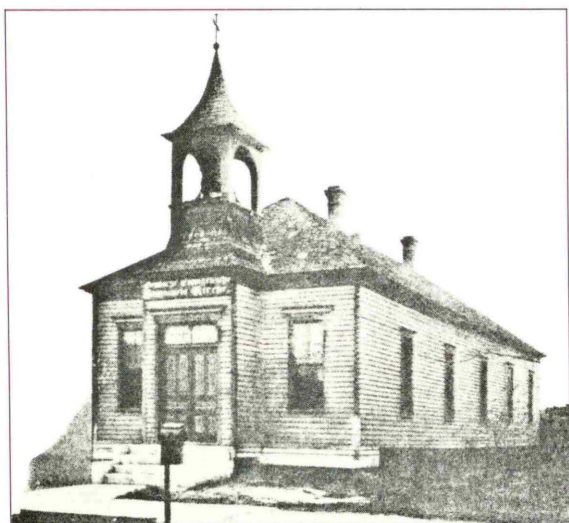
"...teaching the word of God among them." Acts 18:11

In The Beginning

1890 - 1908

In 1890 Hammond was a budding community southeast of Chicago of about 5,400 mostly German immigrant workers attracted here to find employment in the new, growing G. H. Hammond meat packing plant. Rev. Peter Weil came to Hammond with the intention of organizing an Evangelical church. He soon found a small group of men who were eager to co-operate with him, so they might have a church where they could worship God and where His Word could be taught and preached to them and their children. This group desired to worship in a church similar to the Evangelical Church of their Fatherland.

The small group faced not only financial problems but also opposition from some existing German churches that felt another church was unnecessary for such a small community. So disregarding the opposition, they met in a two story frame building on Hohman Street and the Calumet river, thought to be Prahlow's Hall. On October 15th, 1890, our church was organized and chartered under the name of the Deutsche Evangelische Immanuels Gemeinde. The names of the charter members are William Evers, William Kahl, Rudolph Bluhm, William Prange, Carl Lindner, Henrich Elster, William Kuhn and Frank Peschke, Ralph Kuhn, grandson of William Kuhn, is an active member of the present congregation.



The First Church 1892

Subsequent meetings were held in Borchert's Hall at State and Sohl Streets, and in a cottage at 627 State Street, both in Hammond. On July 27th, 1891, the original eight members of Immanuel filed a two page Articles of Association with the Recorder of Lake County Indiana, at Crown Point outlining the reasons for starting the church, the conditions for membership, setting forth the offices to be filled by election, the methods of these elections and certain financial plans. The conditions for membership were as follows:

"All persons of the age of twenty one years of good moral character and unblemished reputation and of German nationality or decent, residing within the United States and not objectionable to three fourths of the members of said congregation may be admitted to membership provided they embrace said Evangelical Protestant faith and profess to practice it according to the rules and regulations of said Church."

Many housewives at that time practiced the art of quilting, so they quilted and made other articles which they sold and gave the proceeds to the church. This activity later culminated in the founding of the Tabeta Guild. Pastor Weil marked the designs on the quilt tops for the ladies. The quilting cycle continues in 1990 with the creation of a Centennial Quilt-Wall Hanging.

During the summer of 1892, the members decided to build a house of worship. A frame church was erected and dedicated on October 16, 1892. The church was small and consisted of just one main auditorium but it symbolized the fulfillment of the hopes of the small congregation. Here, in simple but dignified surroundings, the members of the congregation listened to the word of God as presented by their beloved Pastor Weil.

On November 30, 1890, the pastor, obeying the words of Jesus when he said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for to such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven," christened Georgina Louise Lenore Knabe, the first child to be baptized into the congregation. The first child to be christened in the new church building was Huldah Lydia Weil, the daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Weil, on January 29, 1893.

On Easter Sunday of 1892 the pastor issued an invitation for the members and friends of the congregation to come to the Lord's table. Thirty-five people responded to this invitation for communion and were strengthened in their faith in the first service of this kind in this new congregation.

On January 12, 1893, Rev. Weil united in marriage Anna Sachs and John N. Weber. The ceremony was not performed in the church but in the home of friends, Mr. and Mrs. Hollenzer, who were also members

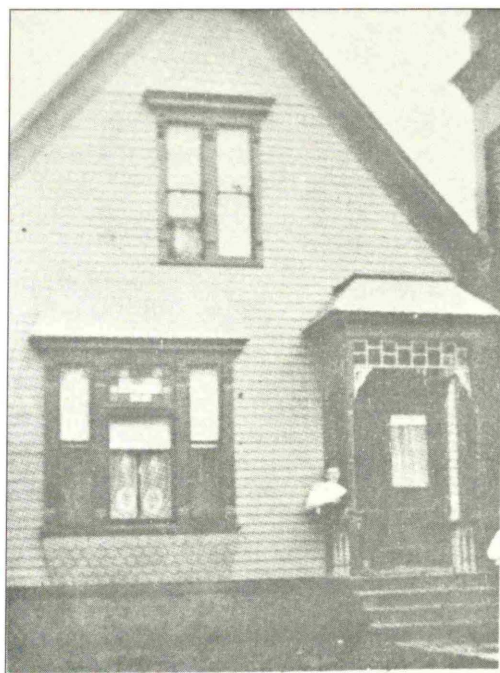
of the congregation. Children and grandchildren of this marriage continued membership in the church. Their grandson John W. Stevesand was ordained in the church on June 19, 1955 and continued his ministry in Union Missouri, until his death in November of 1989.

The first marriage ceremony performed in the newly built church united Bertha Lucht and Frederick Sass on December 19, 1893. Decedents from this couple also continue as members of the congregation.

From February, 1892, until the fall of the same year, a parochial school was conducted in a private home. They taught the three R's in both German and English.

In the spring of 1893 a need was felt for a parsonage. A one and a half story frame structure was erected, with Rev. Weil helping with the manual labor. He and his family moved in on August 28, 1893. The building has quite a history, serving as the home of eight succeeding pastors. It was sold in 1921 and moved to 5526 Beall Avenue in Hammond, where it is still being used as a residence by descendants of the original purchaser.

The ladies of the church started to meet in each other's homes for social gatherings, feeling the necessity of closer association in their church work. It was on October 19, 1893, that they organized the Tabea Ladies Aid. The Tabea Ladies Aid was destined to be one of the most sustaining factors in the



The First Parsonage 1893



The Guild - about 1894

history of our church. A history of the Tabea Women's Guild is included in this book.

The church building, although completed in 1892 contained a belfry but lacked a bell. The members thought of the churches in their homeland, and in memory heard the song of the bells as they called the worshipers to church on Sunday morning. It was in 1894 that they purchased a bell from the Hy Stuckstede BF Co. of St. Louis Missouri and they had the pleasure of dedicating it on August 19, 1894. This the same bell which was refurbished by Herbert Shaw, Paul Smith, Ed Hanish and Edward Behling and is mounted on a beautiful oak stand in the narthex of our church. It is rung at the opening of each service.

When the church was organized in 1890, it is believed that simultaneously the Sunday School was started, with an enrollment of six children. Throughout the history of the church it has been the means of educating our children in the work of the Lord and training them to act as workers in His Kingdom.

In 1897, an addition to the church building consisting of one room was added to the rear of the church, to be used as a school room. The church proper was also renovated and rededicated on August 29, 1897.

February 28, 1899 marked the farewell of Rev. Weil. He was succeeded on April 16, 1899 by Rev. Theodore Braun who was installed on May 19, 1899.

The new pastor recognized the need to improve the Christian Education of the youth and organized the Sunday School into a Christian Education Department, at a meeting on April 30, 1899.

On September 8, 1898, the choir was organized to lend beauty to the services by its music and har-

mony. A history of the choir is included in this book.

The men of the congregation felt the need for an organization which would allow them to give assistance and support in times of illness and death. On August 2, 1899, they organized the Kranken Unterstutungs Verein. This organization provided not only financial aid in times of distress but also spiritual comfort through their all night vigils and prayers at the bedside of a stricken fellow church members. This organization disbanded in 1926.

On January 19, 1900 the youth of the church united to form a Young People's organization. The aim of the organization was to further the development of these young Christians as members of the church.

The parochial school which had been conducted as a daily school under the tutelage of the pastor, and in later years by teachers, was disbanded on April 1, 1901. Thereafter, the pastor conducted what was known as Saturday and summer school when children were not in the public schools.

The newest of the church organizations, the Young People's League, thought an organ would greatly enhance the beauty of the services. The church's first organ was purchased by the League and dedicated on September 22, 1901. It was then that the early members realized the fulfillment of their dreams—A House of God, with a bell to call the people to worship, a choir to sing His praises, and an organ to send forth majestic melodies.

With an eye to the future, In October, 1901, the congregation acquired fifty feet of land adjacent to the church property. They were especially jubilant because they were able to pay five sevenths of the purchase price as a down payment. As we today review the history of our church we appreciate the foresightedness of these early members.

The parsonage had been built without a basement, so in 1902 they excavated and added a basement under it.

September 2, 1904 marked the end of the pastorate of Rev. Theodore Braun, who during his five years of faithful devotion, endeared himself to his congregation. He was succeeded by Rev. J. Lebart on October 2, 1904. The new church had received the influence of a single pastor for almost its first decade but the second decade was one of shorter service and rapid turnover of four pastorates. Rev. Lebart served for just over a year when he answered the call to another charge on December 5, 1905.

Rev. Val Ziemer came to Hammond February 1, 1906 and by June 28 1908, he too had answered the call of another congregation.

Rev. C. A. Heldberg and family came to Hammond August 1, 1908 and he too left by May 1910.

1909 - 1927

The church did make progress during this time, for it was then the congregation realized the need of a larger building in which to worship because the seating capacity of the original church was inadequate. It was decided to build a new brick edifice to be used for the worship services, the old building to be used as a parish hall. On July 4, 1909, the corner stone of the new church was laid. The new church was dedicated on November 14, 1909 with great rejoicing. The members, looking back over only nineteen years could indeed say "The Lord has prospered us."

Rev. M. C. Hoefer came on June 1, 1910. During the four years that he served in Hammond, all the church organizations were actively working to help retire its debt. With sincere regret, they bade him farewell on March 1, 1914.

On June 15, 1914 Rev. Hugo and his family came to Hammond. In October 1915, several former pastors returned to help the church celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary.

On February 20, 1916, the members were saddened by the death of Rev. Hugo.

On June 1, 1916, the new pastor arrived in the person of Rev. A.J. Hotz. It was during the years of his pastorate that a great number of young men and women responded to their country's call to service in World War I, known as the war to end all wars. A large service flag, with stars representing these young people hung in our church. On June 1, 1919, Rev. Hotz left Hammond to respond to a call to a church in Peotone Illinois.

Rev. Carl Schaeffer came to Hammond on October 1, 1919 to begin what turned out to be almost

half a century of service by Schaeffer pastors. Rev. Carl followed by his son Paul. On November 9, 1919 Rev Carl Schaeffer conducted a special service giving thanks for the safe return of Immanuel's soldiers and nurses.

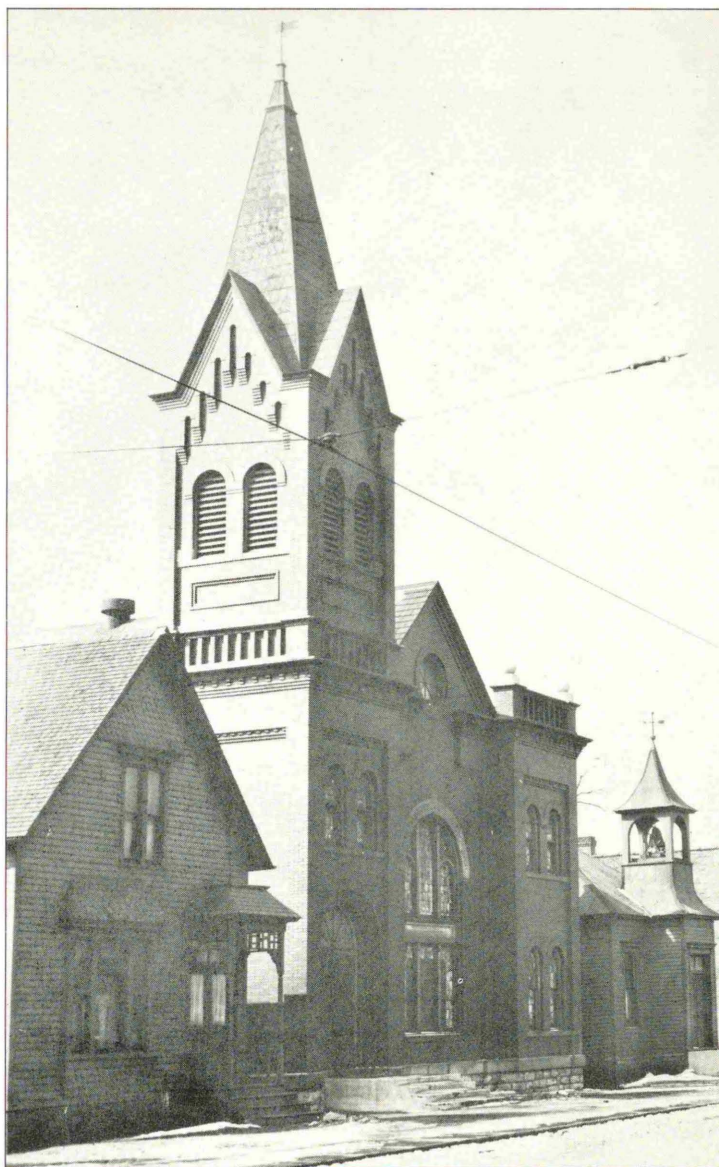
May 5, 1921 marked the beginning of excavation for a new brick two story parsonage beside the church. It was dedicated December 11, 1921. During the building process the pastor's family occupied an apartment near the church.

In 1926 construction was started on a new social hall at the rear of the lot and connected to the church. The addition consisted of two floors of fireproof construction with a modern kitchen and a room for the quilters. The cornerstone was laid September 26, 1926, and the new social hall was dedicated along with the remodelled and renovated church, during a celebration on July 24 to 28 1927.

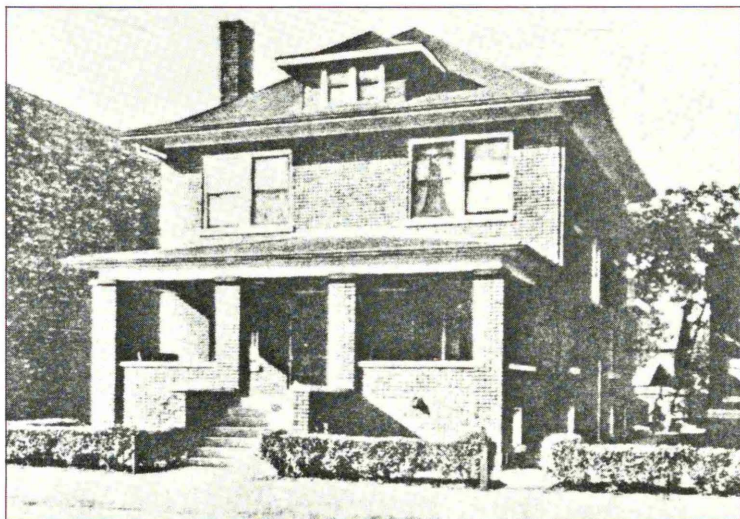
Shortly after this expansion, the depression sweeping the country made it difficult for members to meet their financial obligations—difficult times for the congregation and also for its pastor. Rev. Schaeffer, however, with his childlike faith, encouraged his members and the work progressed.

In 1934, the Evangelical Synod of North America joined with the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States to become the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

On July 15, 1935, the congregation was shocked by the unexpected news that Rev. Carl Schaeffer had answered the call of the Master. It was with deep sorrow that they accompanied him to his final resting place.



In 1909 the new church rose between the original parsonage and church on Sibley Street in Hammond.



The parsonage built in 1921.

They then set about the arduous task of finding a successor who would stand firm in his faith in God through all the challenges of life. It was finally decided that surely we could find no better successor than his son, Paul. Therefore, on January 9, 1936 Rev. Paul G. Schaeffer and his family came to Hammond, to answer the call to Immanuel.

Rev. Paul Schaeffer, in his first service as pastor of Immanuel stated that his aim in life was to preach Christ alone and Him crucified. He also stated the utmost desire of his heart was to be as true a follower of Christ as his father had been. His record of service is a testimonial that he succeeded in this aim.



Edith McConnell, Church Secretary



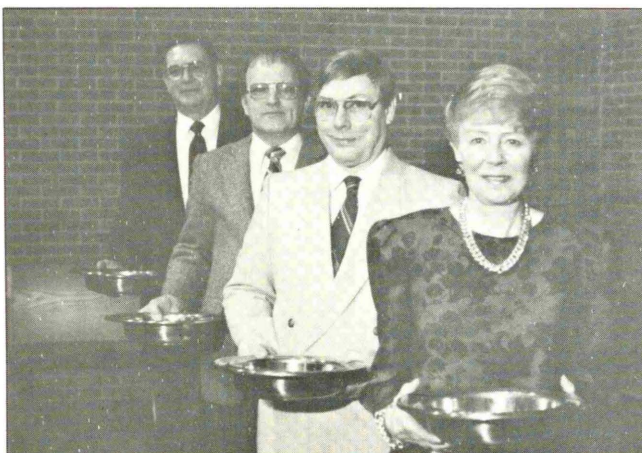
Marge Sohl, Librarian



One Hundredth Anniversary Committee (standing left to right) Marge Bluhm, Nancy Fleener, Marlene Herrin, Betty Volbrecht, Richard Volbrecht, Earl Mallett, (seated) Paulette Lickwar and Virginia Mallett.



Historical Committee (left to right) Herbertine Peck, Jim Fay, David Cole, Donna Graves, Bob Beilfuss, Edith McConnell, Marge Sohl. Not pictured Wayne Peck and Ralph Bennett.



Elders: (front to back) Pauline Alcumbrac, Ron Alcumbrac, Don Andrews, Robert Moritz.

Among those who serve on Sundays

Deacons:
(clockwise from
left to right)
Sandy Rusnack,
Gail Parks,
Helen Lee,
Esther Plain.



The year 1940 was the first time in the history of the congregation that the North Illinois Synod held its annual conference in Hammond. This meant furnishing lodging and meals for about two hundred fifty pastors and delegates for three days. Every organization and each member worked diligently to make this conference a huge success. The members of the Brotherhood, with pails and brushes, re-decorated the entire basement. The church auditorium had two aisles and in order to increase the seating capacity, these aisles were eliminated and one center aisle installed. The result being that the benches were joined and a larger seating capacity was attained.

The organ which had been in use since 1901, was showing signs of old age, and it was decided to purchase a new electric organ to replace it. On Easter Sunday morning the congregation was surprised to find a new Hammond Organ had been installed during the proceeding week, as a gift from a father and mother, in memory of a loved one. Other memorials given at this time to beautify the church were the stained glass windows and the painting of the Sinking Peter. Also the lectern was given in the memory of Rev. Carl Schaeffer.

It was decided to use the small fund which had been designated as an organ fund to purchase a public address system with chime attachments. On Sunday mornings, before the bell called the people to worship, beautiful hymns were broadcast from the belfry, through the system. New coverings were given for the altar and lectern by an anonymous donor.

With light hearts, the conference visitors were welcomed on April 10th, 11th, and 12th, 1940, and as they left, every church member involved felt it had been a great blessing.

In October, 1940, the church celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. Special services were held Sunday September 29, October 6th through 27th and November 3rd. The members in reviewing the past, gained new confidence and looked forward to the future.

1941 - 1965

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on a quiet Sunday morning in 1941 it caused profound changes throughout the United States as our society struggled to serve the needs of our fighting men. Immanuel's congregation quickly responded to the call to arms as members began leaving to serve wherever needed.

Early in 1942 a group of about twenty members of the congregation formed a Service Committee for the purpose of sending gift boxes to each of the sons and daughters of Immanuel serving in the military, and to raise the funds to pay for the various expenses of stocking and shipping the boxes.

The first set of boxes were prepared in March 1942 to send to the 36 men already in the service. The boxes included two packs of cigarettes, a 1/2 pound package of cheese, a 1/2 pound package of Ritz Crackers, Summer sausage, candy bars and homemade candies and cookies. The total cost for the 36 boxes was \$39.03. Individual contributions by members covered the cost.

Since this was to be an ongoing project, contributions were sought on a regular basis at Sunday services, and received from church organizations such as the Brotherhood and Woman's Guild.

Boxes were prepared again for the 4th of July 1942, adding raisins, peanut butter and canned french fried potatoes. By this time there were 41 members in the service.

As the need grew for money to cover the expenses, special events were held at the church that included a free will offering. The first of these events was a Christmas Benefit Party on Saturday night, October 24th, 1942 with about 150 people attending. William Klemm provided violin music and Billie Yescitz (Beilfuss) and Ruth VanderHere (Kuntner) provided vocal selections accompanied by Ruth Stout (Klemm) at the piano. A very interesting movie on the Dutch East Indies was shown by Mrs. Charles Embree. The offering amounted to \$95.00.

Sixty Christmas boxes were prepared in 1942 at a cost of \$ 189.00. There were 48 for the Army and 12 for the Navy.

By this time the Committee had also established a service flag to be displayed at church. Each person serving was listed along with a silver star. By the time the Committee again met in January 1943

to plan a Family Night fund raiser in February, the number of service men and women had risen to 85.

This pattern of fund raising and mailing boxes, always with a letter of inspiration from Rev. Paul Schaeffer, continued through the remaining years of the war. By the end of 1943, 137 members were serving in the military, and the cost of the Christmas boxes alone totaled \$ 476.43. Christmas boxes for 1944 totaled 166, and Christmas 1945 totaled 175. By Easter 1946, only 49 members were still in the service. A total of 188 members had been in the service.

The final big event sponsored by the Service Committee was a gala party for all the returning "boys and girls" at the Church's Social Hall on Friday, Dec 30th, 1946. About 150 were in attendance for this happy event.

The happiness of the safe return of our sons and daughters was tempered by a Memorial Service honoring the four young men who died serving their Country. Those who died were Pfc. Raymond Hanish, Warren DeRolf and Lt. John R. Van de Lester and Lt. Clifford Sohl.

The Service Committee's final event was a celebration dinner for the committee members held at Phil Smidt and Sons Restaurant in Hammond on June 9, 1947. (Note: perch in butter was \$2.50, lobster was \$3.50 and frog legs were just \$2.75.) Harold and Lill Norden and Hans and Elise Derner were recognized for their leadership of this very important committee.



The mortgage burning service, 1944.

In that year the young people of our church hosted the young people of the North Illinois Synod for their annual conference. On July 10, 1949, the congregation surprised Pastor Paul Schaeffer with a party in honor of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination.

In an effort to alleviate parking problems, discussions were begun to acquire a parking lot behind the church. An agreement was finally reached in 1950 for leasing the property, at an amount equal to taxes on said property. It was purchased in 1959.

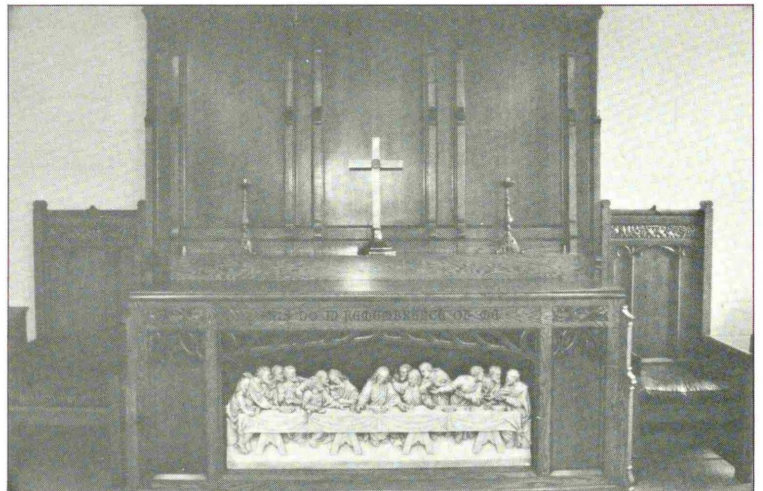
On April 21, 1950 the Double Ring Club was organized to fill the need for an organization in which both husbands and wives were active together.

A Board of Christian Education was formed in 1955. In June 1957, the Evangelical and Reformed Church united with the Congregational Christian Church at the bi-annual Synod meeting in Cleveland. The new united church became known as the United Church of Christ. Our church was represented at

During the year 1944 the final payment of our church debt was made and a mortgage burning service was held.

During 1946 a secretary was employed two days a week to assist in recording dues and do general office work. The Sunday School purchased a stoker for the church furnace as their special project.

In 1946 a dedication was held for a beautiful new altar, donated to the church by some faithful members. This altar was "loaned" to the East Chicago United Church of Christ when we moved to our present church in Highland and has since been returned to provide a worship center in one of our Sunday School rooms.



The altar dedicated in 1946.

the synod meeting by Karl Faulstich. It took until October 18, 1959 for Immanuel church locally to adopt the name of Immanuel United Church of Christ. A statement of faith to be used by the United Church of Christ was adopted at the meeting of the General Synod. Also on October 11, 1959, the church celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of our church building.

In 1958, a Church Library was organized in the church parlor by Marjorie Sohl. It continues to operate as a source of materials for teaching, worship and personal development.

In early March 1960, extensive planning began for a major fund raising campaign to be known as "That We May Build". This campaign was the result of a long series of events that had examined the long term growth of this Church.

As early as 1949, space for Sunday School classes had been a problem. It was then that class room areas were expanded from the Social Hall to the basement of the Church to accommodate the growing number of young attending.

The need for space increased in the early 1950's, when even converting the adjacent parsonage to classroom space was considered.

At a regular Board meeting held on January 2, 1954, a Site Committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of purchasing property which would be centrally located for most of the members. This committee was headed by Church Board President Louis H. Beilfuss along with Merle Daily, William Bell, Karl Faulstich, Harold Norden and Rev. Paul Schaeffer.

At least ten sites in Hammond and Munster were considered and carefully examined by the committee, but only one seemed to meet the required need for adequate space at a reasonable price. That site was a ten lot section on River Drive in Munster with 600 feet of frontage. A purchase agreement on five of the lots was quickly reached, however the remaining five lots had a residential use only restriction that in spite of extensive efforts was not overcome.

Since the Site Committee had been unsuccessful in its efforts to find a new location, interest in improving the Church's location on Sibley Street began again. At a regular Board meeting held on March 4, 1959, a Planning Committee was appointed to study the acquisition of additional parking space near the Church and to plan the types of improvements that would serve the growing needs.

At a special Congregation meeting on August 18th, 1959, plans to relocate were officially abandoned and a motion was adopted authorizing the Planning Committee to purchase a site on Kane Avenue, directly behind the parsonage, and to negotiate a lease with the Nickel Plate Railroad for 260 feet of frontage on Kane Avenue adjacent to their tracks. Both of these parcels were to be used for parking space. The Committee was also authorized to engage the services of an architect, selecting the firm of Whitehead and Billman of Chicago.

On October 7, 1959, the Committee reported to the Board the purchase of the Kane Avenue property and recommended that the Committee be enlarged, to be known as the Building Committee with greatly expanded membership.

At a regular Congregation meeting on January 6, 1960, the Executive Committee of the Board was empowered to engage in a fund raising campaign for building and Church needs.

On March 27th, 1960 a Loyalty Dinner kicked-off the canvass of all the Church members with a goal of raising \$ 200,000.00 over and above the regular operating and benevolence budgets. This money was to add Sunday school and Church office space, a choir room, and improve the heating, ventilating and electrical systems, and eventually increase the size of the sanctuary.

To assist the congregation in meeting this goal, Rev. Paul Schaeffer agreed to purchase his own home to be used as a parsonage. To meet the increased workload required by the three year fund raising drive and the building project, Immanuel hired Laverne Heisner as its first full time secretary.

The cornerstone for the new Sunday School wing was set in place and dedicated on May 6th, 1962.

This ambitious plan resulted in the addition of the new Educational Building on the east side of the Church, and the remodeling of the Church Hall. These improvements were dedicated at services held during the week of April 21st to April 28th, 1963. The cost of the project came to \$ 247,885.00 plus there were memorials and furnishings donated valued at \$ 5,414.70. Since the canvass program fell short of its goal, a debt of \$ 80,000.00 remained to be paid.

On September 3, 1961, a second youth of Immanuel, John Faulstich, was ordained a pastor and was assigned as a pastor of youth to the United Church of Christ in Garden City New York. He was a former

president of the National Young Peoples League.

In December, 1962, the church decided to end its relationship with the North Illinois Synod and affiliate with the Indiana-Kentucky Conference. A new constitution and by-laws was formulated and accepted by the congregation in 1965. Also in order to conform with the Indiana-Kentucky Conference, the church year was changed to begin on October 1st and the Sunday School year was changed to begin in September to correspond with the new United Church curriculum.

In 1958 a Memorial Fund, which continues today, was established providing that only the interest from the fund can be used and that for educational proposes. Students attending church affiliated colleges, retreats and camp assistance tuition are eligible for these funds. In the new 1965 constitution, mentioned above, an agreement was formulated and any deserving young person desiring to borrow money for a college education, may borrow from the interest of the Memorial Fund. The student must study for full time Christian service.

In 1964 a pulpit committee was appointed to secure the services of an associate pastor. At a congregational meeting on March 31, 1965, a call was issued to Rev. Gerhard Schmidt. On July 6, 1965 it was decided to purchase a home on Walnut Street, in Munster to be used by the Associate Pastor.

A Church On The Move . . . 1966 - 1990



The church and social hall about 1940.

ing. Viet Nam was in the headlines and Immanuel had six sons in the service. (Later, in 1968, Immanuel had as many as 14 sons in the armed forces.) Sauerkraut dinners were held with tickets at two dollars each. The Youth Fellowship attended a Rock & Roll worship in Elmhurst Illinois, where even the Lord's Prayer was to the rock and roll beat.

A very pushy church mouse by the name of KNO-ZEE began writing columns in the VISITOR This mouse attended all church functions where food was served and reported on the events as well as who stepped on his tail.

Charlotte Kasten, an institution in our Christian Education Department, resigned in 1967 after 40 years of teaching.. She probably taught all of us her favorite doctrine: "One should not have to tell others you are a Christian, they should know it."

In March of 1968, the winds of change shifted with the letter of resignation from Rev. Schaeffer. By

That's what we would call the last twenty-five years of Immanuel's history. For several years prior to 1965, Immanuel had a relatively simple existence. One Church, one minister, and one parsonage. However, since that time we've had three churches, three pastors, several associates and many parsonages.

The congregation faced painful decisions. Those decisions have led us to feel joy, pride, fear, separation and exhilaration.

We were tempered by trials and separation. The flock was strengthened by our leaders and the leaders were supported by the flock. God brought us through and we are not the same congregation. We gained in numbers and dedication. Through the experience we feel a kinship and know each other by a firm handshake, a wink, a smile and a hug. The following section of this history recalls the joys, pains, laughter and tears of those years.

In 1966 Immanuel's address was on Sibley Street with Rev. Scheaffer and Rev. Schmidt pastor-

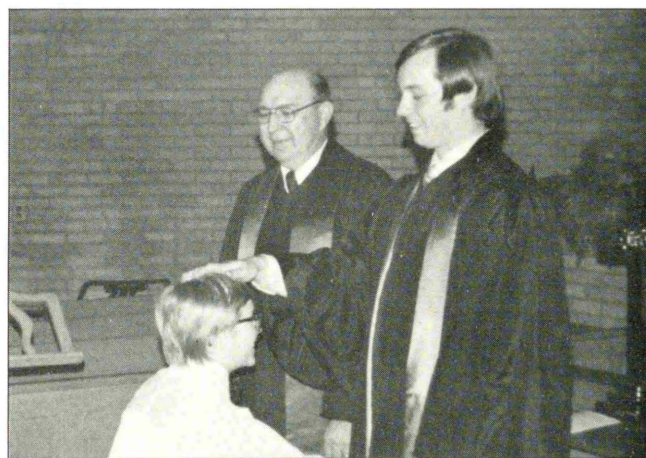
"And he blessed them, laying his hands upon them." Mark 10:16



1948



1982



1973



1989



1958

December of that same year Rev. Schmidt also resigned. Replacing Rev. Schaeffer would not be easy but a Pulpit Committee was formed consisting of Harold Norden, Leroy McCullum, Darold Lee, Bud Beilfuss, Merle Daily and Clayton Miesel. Rev. Schaeffer was honored with the title of Pastor Emeritus.

In September, Rev. Herbert Barten accepted Immanuel's call. The Barten's, Herb and Pauline, had five children but only the two youngest, Nina and Polly came with them to Hammond. Since Immanuel did not have a parsonage, they moved into the McLaughlin Apartments, in Hammond, later moving to an apartment in Munster near the church.

On October 2nd, a surprise potluck was held in honor of the Schaeffer's retirement. The congregation presented them with a trip to the Holy Land and paid the mortgage off on their home. It might be added that Rev. Schaeffer generously showed his slides of the Holy Land at any time at almost any place. A new pulpit committee was formed in January 1969 to replace Rev. Schmidt.



Dora and Paul Schaeffer.

In May 1969 Harold Koenig, our long-time organist retired after thirty-two years of dedicated service.

We said goodbye to Dora Schaeffer in June. She passed away before she and Rev. Schaeffer could enjoy their retirement.

A finance committee was formed for the purpose of creating a Building Fund for the construction of a new church on Sibley Street. That committee consisted of George Bond, Merle Daily, Everett Kortkrax, Harold Norden and Ray Pennington.

Rev. William Allen accepted a call as Immanuel's Associate Pastor in December. He and his wife Gloria and daughter Lisa became a part of our church family. A son Billy was born in Hammond. Rev. Allen will probably be remembered for his interdenominational work and pioneering sex education in the Sunday School.

The Golden Fellowship saw its beginning in 1970. The seniors, under the leadership of Clara Stromberger and Rev. Schaeffer, played cards, took day trips and had speakers.

Jim Langdoc, the third son of Immanuel to be ordained into the ministry was ordained on May 21, 1971.

In the Spring of 1971, some leaders of the church and others began to have some reservations about the wisdom of constructing a new church at the Sibley Street location. Rev. Barten and Rev. Allen surveyed the neighborhood and found little interest in our denomination. That along with the fact that a lot of our members were moving south was the basis of the reservations. Rev. Barten sent a letter to members of the Board and Building Committee asking for a reconsideration. He also listed some options. A series of dialogue meeting was scheduled for the congregation to explore the possibilities to relocate the church. At a special Board meeting of May 19th, a price range of \$150,000 to \$250,000 was set for the property and we moved forward to sell. Letters went out to Illinois Bell, Borden Company, Carley Movers, Minas Company and First Baptist Church stating our property was available. Only the First Baptist Church made an offer and in a congregational meeting of June 27, 1971, their offer of \$153,000 was accepted.

In July of 1971, we said a tearful goodbye to our church on Sibley Street and in an emotional service of worship, the altar pieces were carried out. We left the building but carried our memories with us. From that day on, we had a forward look.

The First Christian Church of Calumet Avenue became our home away from home during the construction of our new church. Their congregation was most gracious as we moved in on them. During this period some worship services were held jointly and Sunday School classes were combined with teachers from both churches teaching. In August we registered 125 children for a combined community summer program. This special summer program was a combined effort by Immanuel, First Christian, 4-H and Hammond's Community School.

In the fall Nell Langdoc, our church secretary, moved to California and Adele Roman assumed the position, serving until her death in 1987.

During this time, the Site Committee, (Robert Schultz, Chairman, Dick Volbrecht, Al Rutz and Rev. Herbert Barten) had narrowed its search to four locations in Munster and Highland. After additional consideration, a site in the Meadows Subdivision of Highland was selected. In August, 1972, an offer was

made and accepted for the purchase of the three acre site.

With the site secured, a church building committee was selected later that month. Those selected to serve were Gerald Cox, Marilyn McCloskey, Ed Behling, Ed Hanish, John Kirsch, Ralph Kuhn, Earl Mallett, Stuart Means and ex-officio members Bud Beilfuss and Rev. Barten.

At a special meeting of the Church Council held on Sunday, November 5th, 1972, preliminary building plans prepared by Nathan Carras, Architect, were approved and the firm was further authorized to proceed with working drawings for a building not to exceed a cost of \$500,000.00 or to necessitate the borrowing of funds not to exceed \$250,000.00. The Officers of the Council were also authorized to enter into a contract with Moeller Organ Company for a pipe organ not to exceed \$22,300.00 in total cost.

Rev. Timothy Kehl and his wife Rita came to us in January 1973. He started his ministry with us as a student pastor and after his ordination was called to be our Associate Pastor. While at Immanuel two daughters, Jenny and Heather, were born.

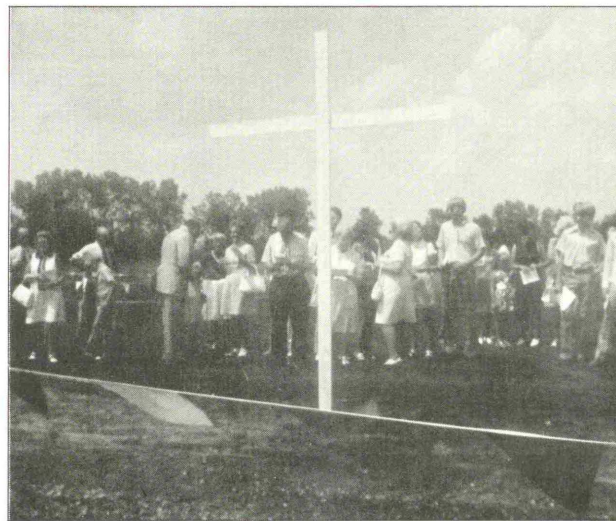
In April of 1973, the architect had completed the working drawings for the new church building. After considerable discussion and a few changes, the plans were approved and the architect was authorized to seek bids for the project.

That summer Immanuel had another first, a day camp Bible School. Rev. Kehl took several groups of children to the Dunes or Optimist Park for a day of nature, crafts, Bible study and bonfires.

On August 5, 1973, after months of hard work, long meetings, difficult choices and financial challenges, ground breaking for our new church building took place. Those attending found it necessary to follow a rutted path through a farm field. The heat of the day was emphasized by the fact that Charlotte Kasten fainted. A white cross was "planted" on the spot where the altar-table would stand and served as an unusual symbol to all who passed that a significant event had occurred.



Groundbreaking in Highland, August 5, 1973.



Symbolic cross marks location of the new altar.

At a special meeting of the congregation on Sunday, September 23rd, 1973, three resolutions were approved to begin the actual construction process.

The first resolution authorized the Council officers to enter into contracts with Rueth and O'Connell as General Contractors, and additional sub-contractors for plumbing, mechanical and electrical systems in an amount not to exceed \$391,000.00.

The second resolution authorized the Council officers to negotiate a 15 year mortgage loan of \$250,000.00 at 7 1/2% interest from Calumet National Bank.

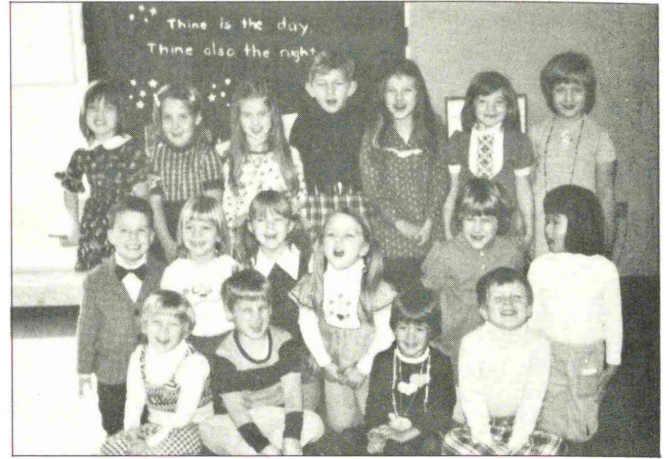
The third resolution authorized the Building Committee to increase expenditures up to \$30,000.00 for furnishings, painting, floors, landscaping and other priority items as funds become available.

The total projected cost totaled \$531,146.00 consisting of construction contracts of \$391,000, site cost of \$52,000, pipe organ \$22,300, furnishings etc. of \$30,000, architect fees of \$28,000, and contingency of \$7,846.

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14



1984 - Children's sermon



1975



1956



Nursery graduation about 1962

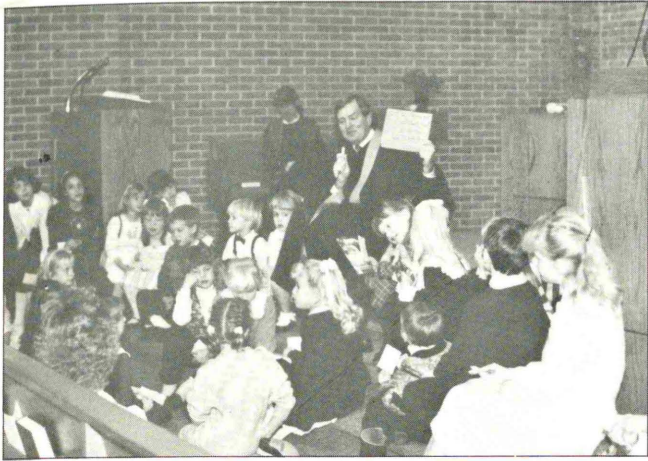


Senior Youth - 1984



Junior Youth - 1984

"Teach me thy way, O Lord." Psalm 27:11



1989



1989



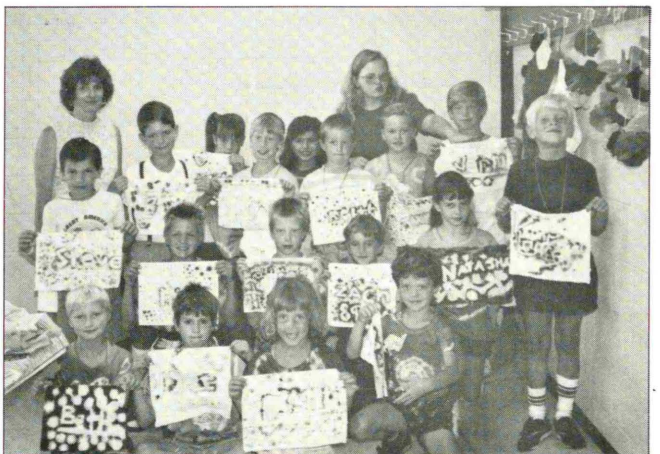
1989



Bible School - 1989



Bible School - 1989



Bible School - 1989

By January 1974, the building was well underway and decisions were being made about pews, chancel and Sunday School furniture.

The adult retreat that year was a family affair at Indiana Turkey Run State Park, in May. Some families stayed in cabins, while others brought campers.

The hopes and dreams of a new home for Immanuel's congregation were finally realized on Advent Sunday, December 1st, 1974. The new church was ready.

The Dedication Service began in the parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Herbert Barten issued the Call to Worship. Architect Nathan Carras then presented the keys to the new building to Gerald Cox, Chairman of the Building Committee who in turn presented them to Howard Haberman, President of the Church Council.

The doors were then opened for the grand processional into the sanctuary carrying in the altar pieces from the former church to the singing of "O Come, All Ye Faithful". Associate Pastor Tim Kehl then led the prayer of invocation.

Dr. Harry Bredeweg, Indiana-Kentucky Conference Minister and Chairman of the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ then presented the sermon titled "To These Things You Must Add" reminding the congregation that it takes much more than bricks and mortar to serve and worship God.

The dedicatory prayer was offered by Immanuel's beloved Pastor Emeritus Paul Schaeffer. Joyful music of the season, hymns and anthems, added to the beauty of the service as conducted by directors Roger Emig and Carol Clough. The service concluded with a celebration of Holy Communion.

This day of dedication continued at 4:00 p.m. with a Vesper Service with the music of the Celebration Road Show.

The success of this project was as a result of countless hours of dedicated service by many members serving on a variety of committees. Special recognition is given to Gerald Cox, Chairman of the Building Committee, to Ted Radle, Chairman of the Finance Committee, to Rev. Herbert Barten, and to Robert Schultz who served two years as President of the Church Council during the complex time of negotiating, planning and overseeing this largest project in Immanuel's recent history, and who after just finishing those terms quickly agreed to Chair the Dedication Committee.

Early in January 1975, the congregation realized they needed either sunglasses or stained glass in the south windows above the altar. An artist to design and a company to install the stained glass windows were selected. The strong colors in the window design (rubies, gold and blue, symbolize the triumphal resurrection, (areas of green) symbolized continued growth.

In February, Dr. Robert Lodene presented a concert at the dedication service of our beautiful Mollar pipe organ.

Our retreat in 1975 was extended to a week of family camping. Several families, under Tim and Rita Kehl's leadership, went to Estes Park Colorado and enjoyed hiking, swimming, outdoor worship and fellowship.

Rev. Kehl accepted a call to Evansville Wisconsin and on January 25, 1976, goodbyes were said to the Kehl family.

Rev. Allen Rinne, was called on May 9th and shortly thereafter became our Associate Pastor.

In April 1976 Double Ringsponsored a dance which was held at the church. The Ewen Sisters provided the music and everyone had such a nice time.

During the Lenten season of 1977, Rabbi Horwitz of Hammond, conducted a Sedar Meal for Immanuel. The Rabbi had us alternately laughing, chuckling, and serious. The meal and presentation was a real learning experience for our congregation.

Mission work seemed to take the lead in 1978. Immanuel set goals in order to contribute to Habitat for Humanity and One Great Hour of Sharing.

A union service of Thanksgiving was started in 1977 with Immanuel and First Presbyterian Church of Highland worshipping together. In 1978, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) joined us and since then we rotate the services among the three churches.

An Intergenerational Advent event was held in December. This was a good family day of carols, crafts and potluck.

The Arts were the theme of 1979. First the lower Junior Sunday School class worked on a play entitled "Homecoming Day" which they performed for the other classes. Next the Northwest Association of the

Indiana-Kentucky Conference sponsored an arts contest with the theme of "Creating the Spirit of 79." Several members of our congregation participated by entering their paintings, poems and music. Finally in November, our Sunday School attended the plays FROG PRINCE and RAPUNZEL at Drury Lane Theater in Chicago.

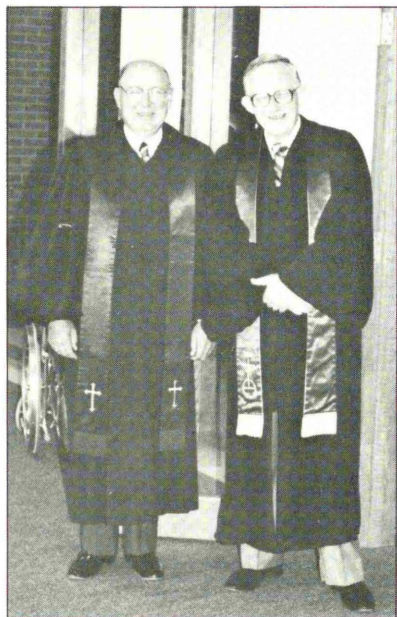
A church survey went out to 700 members in November. Members were asked to list their top priorities for our church. The top three priorities were payment of the debt, pastoral support and to upgrade the Associate pastors position.

The 1980's saw the men of Immanuel institute their Chili and Spaghetti dinners. No two pots of chili tasted the same but they were delicious.

Bruce Horst, one of Immanuel's sons, presented an organ recital in March 1980.

Rev. Barten resigned in August of 1980 to go home to Kansas to be nearer family responsibilities. He had been a good shepherd and led us through the valley of change. Rev. Rinne had resigned in May and many members became concerned as to whom would minister to us. However, in September, Rev. Clarence Sitler, agreed to come for six months, as Interim Pastor. Rev. & Mrs. Sitler moved into the Barten's apartment in November and the congregation supplied pieces of furniture from their attics to furnish the apartment. Clarence and Lillian Sitler became family in just a short time and will be remembered always.

Our 90th Anniversary gala celebration occurred October 19, 1980. Rev. John Stevesand was home to help us celebrate and our Sibley street church bell, newly shined and mounted, called us to worship. William Kuhn, great-grandson of charter member William Kuhn, rang the bell. Rev. Schaeffer, leaning heavily on the lectern, gave some inspirational reflections and for some of us, these reflections were our last remembrance of him. He died a year later on November 29, 1981.



William Kuhn and Ralph Kuhn

(left photo) Rev. Herbert Barten and Rev. John Stevesand.

Rev. Alfred Dwenger came to Immanuel in May of 1981. A series of "Meet the Pastor and his family" cottage gatherings was planned for June to meet and begin to know Al, Jackie and their sons Matthew and Nathan.

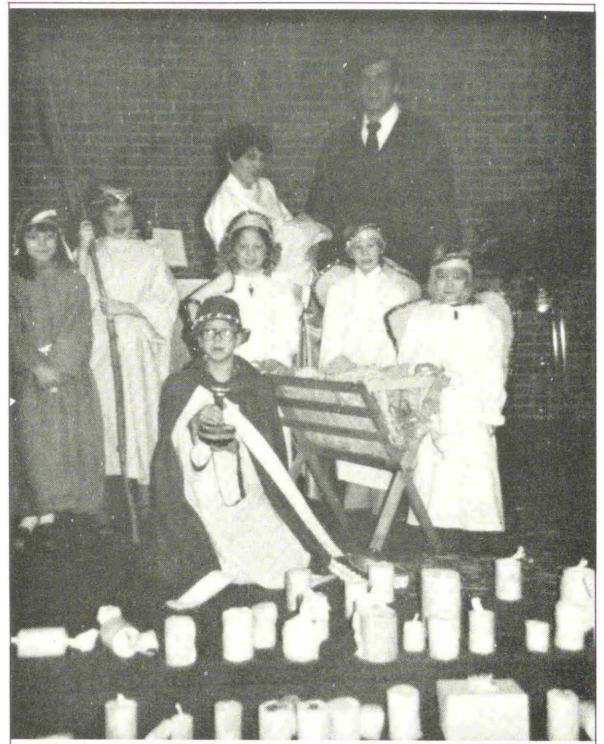
The 80's could also be called the "church repair decade." We had two major roof repairs, pipe organ pouch replacement and a M&M fund set up to pay off the church mortgage and handle some needed maintenance.

February 1982, a pulpit committee was appointed with the purpose of securing an Associate Pastor. Deborah Rosa-Meyer joined us in April with her husband, Kent. Debbie started the "Mother's Morning," a young mothers group, which is still a popular program at Immanuel. A history of Mother's Morning is included in this book.

"Serve the Lord with gladness." Psalm 100:2



Easter Program - 1981



Christmas - 1981



Bible School - 1987



Clown workshop - 1983



Halloween - 1989

In the course of history, unique happenings occur which cause us to pause and wonder. July 3, 1982 was one of those days. On that day Anna Schaeffer and Toni Hickman, two of Immanuel's fine ladies, died.

A much needed new pictorial church directory came out in the fall of 1984. So much time had elapsed since the last directory that we hardly recognized ourselves in the old book.

In 1984, Rev. Al Dwenger began a new worship tradition of presenting in "first person" a Biblical character such as "the Cross Maker," "Judas," and "Joseph." These presentations continue at the rate of two a year.

In the spring of 1984, under the tender care of Wilbert Stoehr a Memorial Rose Garden took bloom. The garden was later moved near the building and now continues to add color and beauty to our church grounds.

Pastor Debbie resigned in November to co-pastor with her husband in Wisconsin and authorization was given to hire Conrad Heisner part-time. Conrad and his wife Marilyn grew up in Immanuel and he was then a student at Chicago Theological Seminary. In July of 1985, Conrad was ordained at Immanuel and accepted a call to Peace Church in Merrillville In. He continued his part-time youth ministry with us.

After an interruption of several years, Pastor Conrad reintroduced the family retreat. The first Family of Faith Retreat was held in January 1986 at Tower Hill in Michigan. This winter retreat became a regular event.



Rev. Schaeffer preaching from a truck.



Church picnics always meant lots of food.

Picnics have long been a part of the church year. There are no specific records of these, but many recall that during Rev. Paul Schaeffer's pastorate at Immanuel, every summer the piano was loaded onto a truck and transported to Douglas Park in north Hammond. There amid God's beauty and from a flat bed truck Rev. Schaeffer delivered his sermon, the choir sang and the congregation was one with the Lord and his glorious creation. Of course, in true picnic style, a pot luck lunch was enjoyed, followed by races and games for all ages. The highlight of the day was the baseball game between the married men and the single men. Somehow the single men always seemed to win. Many sore muscles appeared in both groups the next day. In 1984 Rally Day and the Church Picnic were combined and were given new emphasis. The place of the picnic became the church grounds and the event is still being enjoyed although the worship is held inside.

In October, 1986, the Evening Circle of the Women's Guild presented a "Through the Years Wedding Gown Style Show." Many women of the congregation loaned their wedding gowns. Since many of the ladies could no longer wear their gowns, women from the Mother's Morning group were recruited to model them. A black gown which was ninety-seven years old drew much attention.

Our church parlor had always been a cold room and not really inviting, but thanks to some volunteers, new windows, insulation and paneling were installed, creating the Oak Room in 1986.

1987 was a celebration year. Looking ahead, the Council established four new working committees. The four committees were - the Historical Committee chaired by Edith McConnell and Dave Cole - the Mortgage Burning Committee chaired by Bob Linos - the One Hundredth Anniversary Committee co-chaired by Dick and Betty Volbrecht - and the Committee for Long Range Planning chaired by Larry Tucker and Barbara Linos. That year Bible School was a celebration of Living in Jesus' day. Some of the adult leaders dressed in robes and sandals. The crafts, food and storytelling were also of the period. Tents dotting the grass back of the church with activities such as brick making, wood carving and cooking were also of that period.

On August 1st of 1987 Clara Reichert a long time member of Immanuel, celebrated her 100th birthday. We also celebrated the ordination of Dorothy Palmer in that year. Dorothy grew up in Immanuel and was the first of what we hope to be many daughters to enter the ministry.

The dedication and commitment to stewardship of the congregation was again celebrated in November of 1987. The mortgage taken at Calumet National Bank in late 1974 to pay for the new church in Highland was paid off over two years early.

A service of celebration was planned by the Mortgage Burning Committee, chaired by Bob Linos, and Rev. Dwenger for the Sunday before Thanksgiving, a most appropriate time to give thanks for things accomplished. The service held on November 22nd was in three parts; a special worship service at 10:00 a.m., a catered dinner at 11:30 a.m., and the mortgage burning ceremony at 12:45 p.m.

Rev. Dwenger called the special worship service to order. The opening was highlighted by the passing of three lighted candles through the congregation, from the rear to the front pews, they then being placed on the alter to burn until completion of the mortgage burning ceremony. The candles had been lit on the alter from the church on Sibley Street and this passing symbolized that only through the efforts of each person this new building exists and is fully paid for.

Rev. Herbert Barten, pastor from 1968 to 1980, gave the principal sermon, recounting in detail the difficult times the congregation endured while making the decision to relocate the church and relating those times to similar challenges faced by Christians throughout the Bible.

Rev. Donald R. Buckthal, Associate Conference Minister, contributed a series of biblical stories relating to the recurring need in the lives of Christians to show leadership in making bold and sometimes unpopular moves. He had been in attendance at the congregation meeting on June 27th, 1971 when the issue to move was finally resolved. He noted that it was a learning experience and that he later wrote a doctoral dissertation entitled "How Do You Manage Conflict in the Local Church."

Newly ordained daughter of Immanuel Rev. Dorothy Palmer closed the service with the benediction and table grace. The congregation then filed from the sanctuary singing "We Would Be Building".

Over three hundred members were then treated to a wonderful, multi-course catered dinner as a "thank you" for a job well done. The entire Sunday School wing of the Church was used as dining rooms to accommodate the crowd.



The mortgage burning celebration - 1987.

At the conclusion of the dinner, the congregation was called back to the sanctuary by the ringing of the historic 1894 bell. A short service was conducted by all the pastors, Council President David Cole, Committee Chairman Bob Linos and former Council President Bob Schultz. The candles placed on the altar earlier were used to burn the mortgage papers in a brass bowl that had been used years ago for burning mortgages of the church.

With the mortgage paid off and more money available, the need for a full-time associate pastor was addressed early in 1988. A pulpit committee was formed to search and by July the mission was accomplished when Rev. Stephanie Morath joined us. Pastor Conrad Heisner accepted a call to Mount Vernon, Indiana and in August he and Marilyn moved to their new calling.

The first woman Church Council president, Barbara Linos, was installed in October of 1988.

Two problems surfaced in 1989. The cross mounted on the church began to do structural damage to the adjoining brick support wall, so it became necessary to take it down and mount it at ground level.

Secondly, homes had been rented for our Pastors but in the spring the owners of the recent parsonage expressed a desire to sell the house. Since the congregation thought renting was a poor investment, a committee was formed to search for a parsonage. A house was found in Highland that met the price guideline set by the congregation and was in good physical and structural condition. In May of 1989 the Dwengers moved into the parsonage at 10014 -4th Street.



The cross coming down - 1989.



The new parsonage - 1989.

Through the years, as we live in a world of war and instability, we try to establish corners of peace and tranquility. Perhaps the two corners we think of are the home and church. At times even these havens are invaded by discord and wars of a sort, but God is yet with Immanuel and will continue to be our haven of peace.

Early Property Purchases By Deutsche Evangelische Immanuels Gemeinde

The following are some of the early property transactions that resulted in the construction of the first and second church buildings and the first parsonage.

1. On May 23, 1892 the Trustees purchased from Ernest W. Sohl and his wife Clara Lot #9 of E. W. Sohl's 5th Addition to the City of Hammond for the sum of \$800.00 by Warranty Deed. This lot was 70' wide by 124' deep.
2. On July 15, 1893 the Trustees granted a Mortgage against said Lot 9 to secure a note to Thomas Hammond in the amount of \$600.00 due in three years at 7% annual interest. The Trustees were William Kuhn, Fred Kunzmann, Henrietta Werly, John Drescher and Ernest Miller.
3. On October 10, 1900 the Trustees purchased from John F. Jarnecke and his wife Sophia the easterly fifty feet of Lot 10 of E. W. Sohl's 5th Addition and Lot 15 of L.E. Hohman's Addition to Hammond for \$700.00
4. On August 11, 1909 the Trustees borrowed \$5,000.00 from the Lake County Savings & Trust Co., by a note due in four years at 6% interest. The Trustees were William Herkner, Otto Herkner and Andries Schweiger. A Mortgage was granted against said Lot 9, and part of Lots 10 & 15 detailed above.
5. The August 11, 1909 note was refinanced on January 12, 1914 to a new three note at 6% at the reduced amount of \$3,200.00. Payments were made from time to time over that period until the note was paid off on May 31, 1918. The Trustees in 1914 were Carl Tamm, William Bunde and Carl Bruckner.
6. On July 10, 1913 the Trustees purchased from John Einsele and his wife Susian Lot 8 of E. W. Sohl's 5th Addition for the sum of \$2,500.00 by Warranty Deed. This Deed included a special condition that there will be no school house erected upon it and no building erected which will be used as a school house.

These transactions completed the land purchases for the Church facilities at 344 to 352 Sibley Street in Hammond, later renumbered to 700 to 712 Sibley Street.



Youth group, 1912 - 1913

Board And Council Presidents

1890	L. Maarsand	1954-1955	Louis H. Beilfuss
1891-1895	William Evers	1956-1957	Karl Faulstich
1896	L. Maarsand	1958	Wilbert Schultz
1897	Dominik Domark	1959-1960	Darold Lee
1898-1904	Friedrich Kersten	1961-1962	Louis H. Beilfuss
1905-1907	William Rathmann	1963-1965	William Moore
1908-1914	(No Records Found)	1965-1967	Loren Norden
1915-1922	August C. Riechers	1967-1968	Clayton Miesel
1923-1925	Hans J. Derner	1968-1970	Gerald Cox
1926-1930	August C. Riechers	1970-1972	Louis W. Beilfuss
1931-1934	George Webster	1972-1974	Robert Schultz
1935	Claude Sohl	1974-1976	Howard Haberman
1936-1940	Hans J. Derner	1976-1978	Everett Kortokrax
1941-1942	John Bossard	1978-1980	Richard Volbrecht
1943-1945	William Hildebrandt	1980-1982	Robert Linos
1946-1947	William Krueger	1982-1984	Jerry Fleener
1948-1949	Harold Norden	1984-1986	George Dewar
1950-1951	Edward Koenig	1986-1988	David Cole
1952-1953	H. Merle Daily	1988-1990	Barbara Linos

A Short Profile of the Original Charter Members - 1890

The original eight members of Deutsche Evangelische Immanuels Gemeinde that Pastor Peter Weil gathered from the community were a somewhat diverse group.

William Evers was a bookkeeper at the Tuthill Spring Factory in Hammond, with his residence located at 76 Sheffield Avenue.

William Kahl worked at the G. H. Hammond Meat Packing plant and roomed at a boarding house at 30 Indiana Avenue.

Rudolph Bluhm was a laborer at the Tuthill Spring Factory and was soon promoted to blacksmith. He resided at 104 Condit Street.

William Prange was a day laborer living on Dalton road in West Hammond, now known as Calumet City.

Carl Lindner operated a saloon and bowling alley in West Hammond, and lived above the saloon.

Henrich Elster also worked at the G. H. Hammond Meat Packing Plant. His residence was at 213 State. His wife, Henriette, was a midwife.

William Kuhn worked for a short time at Marcus Towle's Mercantile Store, but soon opened a meat market and residence at 90 State Street.

Frank Peschke worked first at the G. H. Hammond Plant, but he also opened a saloon and residence at 92 State Street next door to William Kuhn.

Pastor Weil resided at 105 Sibley Street.

An interesting note is that the place that these pioneers of our Church first met, believed to be Prahlow's Hall on Hohman Avenue was used one year earlier by another group of Germans to found St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, later located in north Hammond.

The History Of The Tabea Womens' Guild

Our Tabea Womens' Guild was organized in October 1893, as the Tabea Ladies Aid when a small group of German women gathered at the parsonage with Rev. and Mrs. Peter Weil. Rev. Weil served as the Aid's first president, and suggested the group adopt the name, Tabea, after the industrious and patient Biblical servant, Tabitha who sewed garments for the poor and devoted her life to the service of other. A passage from Acts 9, verse 36, reads: "Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple name Tabitha which by interpretation is called Dorcas; this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did."

From the very start, the members of the Aid worked to raise funds for their church and missions. They organized box socials, bazaars, picnics, garden festivals and "Country Store" sales. Records show the first festivals were held in 1899, and netted \$58.85 profit—the first cash donation to the congregation. Some of these early bazaars lasted up to three days and nights. Accounts reported the walls of the church hall were lined with quilts, aprons and booths from fish ponds, fortune telling and young lovers.

Guild meetings, referred to as "coffee socials," since only bread, butter, coffeecake and coffee were allowed to be served as refreshments, were held in various women's homes. Circle activities included sewing and quilting, as well as Bible study and socializing. Annual donations to foreign missions and visits to the sick were made. Through continued fund-raising efforts, the aid was able to purchase the pulpit, alter, benches and carpets for the church in 1909, furnish two rooms at Deaconess Hospital and one room at Elmhurst College in 1911.

The 1920's brought new members, undertakings and changes. The group began using English, as well as German, for meetings and records. They had church supers, ice cream socials, rummage sales and the first Guild Birthday party, and started using visiting baskets and mite boxes for mission collections. Two new circles were added and new carpeting and linoleum were purchased for the church.

An emergency fund for destitute families from the congregation was started during the 1930's. This decade also saw the first Mother and Daughter banquet, the groups affiliation with the Hammond Council of Church Women, membership contests and the adoption of English as the sole language for meetings and records. A steam table and new stoves were bought for the church kitchen.

The 1940's were busy years for the Guild. Members were active in the preparations for Immanuel's 50th anniversary, and the special visit by Hedwig Schaeffer, our own missionary from India. A Red Cross unit was organized and sponsored by the Aid to offer classes in Home Nursing and First Aid. Members also met weekly to knit sweaters, scarves, socks and suits for needy children. The Guild's golden anniversary in 1943, was celebrated with a special banquet and the compiling of a church cookbook. During the decade, contributions were made to support a leper colony in India, annual gifts were sent to children at Bensenville Home and Thank Offering donations were collected. Clothing care packages were mailed to Germany. Screens for the social hall, new tile and kitchen supplies were furnished for the church. The name was changed to the Tabea Women's Guild.

Guild membership and activities continued to grow during the 1950's. Accounts show six circles: Education, Missionary, Spiritual Life, Stewardship, Social Service and Christian Citizenship were active. The women prepared and served numerous banquets for groups which included the Cub Scouts, dart-ball league, Goodwill, Young Peoples, Brotherhood and Christian Church women. They also sponsored turkey dinners as fund raisers in addition to annual bazaars, bake sales and rummage sales. Contributions were made to many church related and civic organizations, such as the March of Dimes, Community Chest, Ellis Community Center, Hoosier Boys Club, Cancer Fund, Goodwill and Immanuel's Youth for Camp scholarships. New appliances and dishes were purchases for the church kitchen.

The 1960's found the Guild enjoying using the remodeled and refurnished church kitchen. They continued to serve many banquets and held delicious sauerkraut suppers. They also began serving the annual Easter breakfast to choir members and the congregation. Style shows, featuring Guild members as models, were held in 1963 and 1966, and bakeless bake sales were begun as another fund raising means. Some of the women would get together once a week and sew cancer pads. Continued support was given to leprosy, Meals for Millions, and Thank Offering funds, as well as to Bensenville, Fort Wayne Children's Home and Immanuel's Organ Fund. Seven circle groups were active.

The arrival of the 1970's found Guild membership declining, as more women were working and fewer younger members were acquired. One circle was consolidated in 1971, and by the end of the decade two

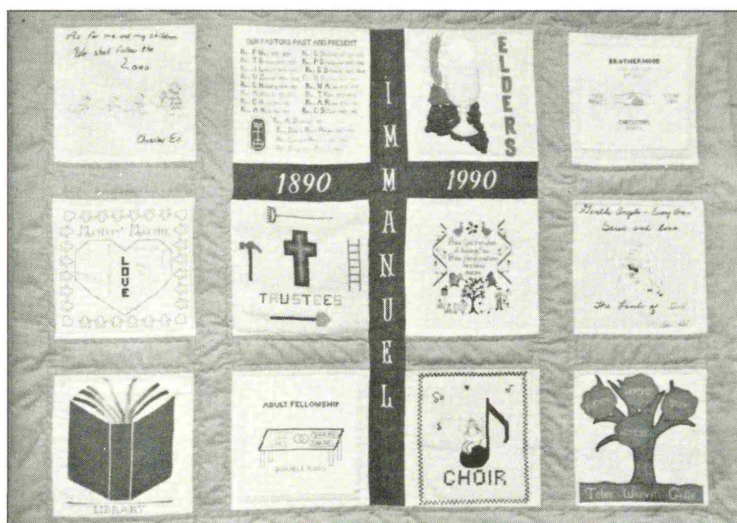
more circles were merged. However, despite its declining ranks and the loss of not having our own church building or kitchen for a few years, the Guild continued to support church and community concerns. The move to the new church brought the return of the group's annual bazaar and luncheon, the Easter breakfast and serving for receptions.

Now, in the 1980's four circles (Stewardship/Spiritual Life, Missionary/Christian Education, Christian Service/Christian Social Action and Evening) are active. Just like in Tabea's early days, members hold their circle and Guild meetings at Church, rather than in members' homes. They continue to support leprosy, Meals for Millions, Thank offering funds, and make an annual birthday collection for Crossroads (the Fort Wayne Children's Home). Members still receive birthday and get well cards, as well as flowers or gifts when hospitalized. We also compiled another Church Cookbook in 1983. The bazaar and the Mother and Daughter Banquet are the two biggest events of each year.

The times and faces may have changed, but the Guild still strives to be loyal to its name - Tabea (Trust, Ambition, Benevolency, Earnestness-Endeavor, Almsdeeds). May God forever bless Tabea.

This is a condensed version of a more complete history of the Guild which is in the church history files.

Prepared by: Helen Ray 1898-1943, Virginia Kicho to 1980



One Hundredth - Anniversary Quilt

The cross in the center represents Christ, the Head of our "Family of Immanuel." The four blocks nearest the cross are the Pastors Past and Present, Elders, Trustees and Deacons. These squares represent the body of our family-serving Christ thru our church with love and devotion for 100 years. The remaining squares represent the "lifeline" of arteries necessary for any body to function properly-Christian Education, Mothers' Morning, Library, Adult Fellowship, Choir, Women's Guild, Jr. and Sr. Youth Fellowship and Brotherhood. The design represents all of our members, past and present, who have been a part of our beloved "Family of Immanuel." We dedicate this quilt to them.



Wedding gown style show - 1986.

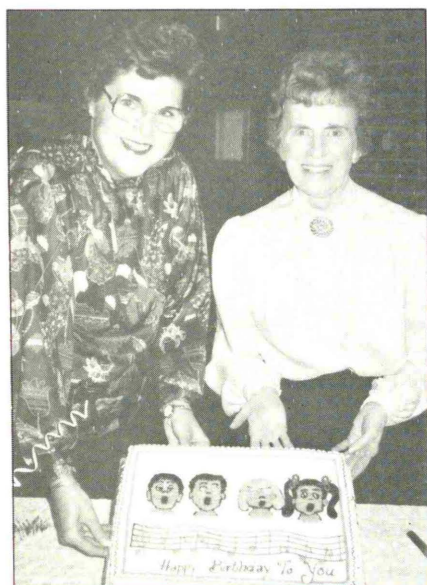
"...these women have labored side by side with me in the gospel..." *Philippians 4:3*



Sewing cancer pads.



A circle meeting.



A guild birthday party - 1989.



The bazaar - 1989.



The evening circle.



A Christmas party.

Mother's Morning History



A mother's morning gathering - 1984.

ing out. The second and fourth Wednesdays of each month seemed to be the optimal time for both those who were working outside the home and for those who worked at home. The first meeting of the month was to be devoted to Bible study and business concerns, while the second was set aside for craft projects and special programs.

Most of the projects and events that were planned during the group's first year have become annual traditions. Mother's Morning creates seasonal altar decorations, helps collect food for the congregation's pantry, assists the Guild with the Bazaar, visits Immanuel's shut-ins, and sews Christmas stockings for the Brotherhood. The group schedules two bake sales a year to raise funds to purchase clothing and gifts for Immanuel's needy families. Members wrap Christmas gifts for these special families and exchange cookies each December. In January, they invite all women to their Anniversary Brunch. The group tries to arrange an adult party for members and spouses each year. They engage a guest speaker for a special program each spring and sponsor a summer picnic for mothers and children each summer.

Some things have changed. Members no longer refer to their group as "Mother's Morning Out." Rather, they have opted to use just "Mother's Morning." Secondly, the "Grandmas" who watch the members' children each month are now Norma Holm and Virginia Kicho. Through the years, childcare helpers have also included Virginia Rutz, Nanci Mahan, Edith McConnell, Pearl Swing, Lois Cutshall, Alice Anderson, Leonard Anderson, Betty Chartos, and Nancy Fleener.

Attendance at meetings has always averaged about 10 members. However, the group's overall membership has encompassed more than 30 women.

Mother's Morning is like a family. It is a haven for emotional and spiritual support. It offers listening ears for each individual's concerns, as well as sisters with which to celebrate special joys. Members read bible passages and inspirational stories together, and discuss how the texts relate to their lives. They share child rearing advice, exchange recipes, send secret pal greetings to each other, make crafts, and contemplate the role of women in today's world. Members cook meals, babysit children, lend clothes, run errands, bake cookies or do anything else that may need to be done for each other. They all seem to know about "faith, hope, and love; and (that) the greatest of these is love."

"Mother's Morning Out" was organized in January, 1983, through the efforts of Associate Pastor Debra Rosa-Meyer. Ten women met for Bible study and fellowship at the group's first meeting on February 13, 1983. They discussed plans for forming a regular group for young women and mothers that would meet bi-monthly for Bible study, crafts, service and fellowship. Norma Holm and Virginia Rutz were recruited to provide childcare services, so meetings could truly offer mothers a morn-



1989 Bake Sale

Prepared by Karen Kicho Sufana

A History Of The Immanuel Brotherhood

Today's Brotherhood has roots going back to August 2nd, 1899 when the men of Deutsche Evangelische Immanuel's Gemeinde (the original name of Immanuel) formed a organization called Kranken Unterstutungs Verein. This group of men provided a resource of caring individuals to provide spiritual support and financial aid if needed to the families, and at the bedside of stricken fellow church members.

This support group of men continued their caring work for over twenty-five years until changing times reduced the needed. By the 1920's, serious illnesses were cared for at hospitals rather than at home and funeral homes became the accepted way to deal with the death of a loved one. As a result of these changes, the organization was disbanded in 1926.

The men of the church soon felt the need of some form of new organization that would allow them to serve God and their beloved Immanuel while enjoying each others company. The Immanuel Men's Fellowship began meeting on a regular basis in the late 1920's. This group of men provided a valuable resource of manpower to aid many projects around the church, but they also had a much lighter side to their purposes. Over the years many interesting and entertaining meetings and events were held that brought joy and laughter to Immanuel.

The Men's Fellowship served nobly during the depression years of the 1930's, helping as much as possible those families hardest hit by those difficult times. The members found comfort in the joys of brotherhood at their regular meetings. They rallied each other to meet the challenges while finding strength in their own numbers to serve wherever they could with whatever resources they could muster.

After the end of World War II, the Men's Fellowship with counsel from Rev. Paul Schaeffer began to establish a pattern to its existence, much of which continues at this time of Immanuel's Centennial. The pattern included a regular monthly meeting that included a business meeting, a time of religious insight usually lead by the pastor, a planning session for ways to serve the church, a program most often a speaker and or a travel film, and a social period with refreshments. This overall pattern includes a regular calendar of special events; an ongoing search for ways to serve the church; and involvement in sports leagues sponsored by area protestant churches or by the Fellowship itself.

The Brotherhood's calendar of special events include the annual Father & Son Banquet, Steak Fry, Family Potluck, Family Picnics, Spaghetti Dinners, Chili Luncheons and the wonderful Christmas Party & Potluck highlighted by a visit from Santa Claus for the kids. Almost every member of Immanuel has enjoyed these wonderful events and look forward to them each year. These events have been held at a wide variety of locations over the many years. . . Emil Reichert's cottage at Lake Dalecarlia, Vic Kirsch's Arrowhead Ranch, Douglas Park, the Beilfuss farm, Optimist Park, Homestead Park and on the Church grounds.

The memories of these events include games and prizes for kids, good food.. always good food (who can forget the Brotherhood's Famous Explosion-proof Chili), softball and other sport competitions and some expert efforts at the Steak Frys that produced hot juicy steaks to order.

The Brotherhood also regularly helps by providing the manpower or money for many needs including serving at Easter Breakfasts and Mother & Daughter Banquets, paying for Confirmation Class pictures, providing busses, etc. for the Christmas Carolers, purchase of needed equipment and furnishings, helping the Women's Guild with the Bazaar, aiding the Trustees on work days, donating to the Heifer Project, providing trophy cases, and helping to fund the purchase of the new organ and the stained glass windows and contributing to the Building Fund for the new Church in Highland.

Sports activities have also been a major contributor to the fellowship. Over the years Immanuel has participated in Calumet Area Church leagues in bowling, golf and dart ball, sometimes fielding as many as three teams in a league. For several years, a annual Brotherhood Bowling Tournament was held at Munster Lanes for all the Church men.

The Brotherhood has also served by organizing a small food pantry from donations from church members that aids member families during difficult times. Additional funding was also provided for sometime by newspaper drives.

Probably one of the most important projects of the Brotherhood was the recovery of the original 1894 church bell in 1979 and its restoration and the construction of its new stand now a part of every service from its place in the narthex. The entire congregation is grateful to Bill Klemm, Ed Hanish, Paul Smith,

Herb Shaw and Ed Behling for their leadership and work on this project.

On September 14th, 1976 the Immanuel Men's Fellowship officially changed its name to Immanuel Brotherhood.

Prepared by
David E. Cole



Not long after Immanuel's new Social Hall opened in the late 1920's, the Brotherhood had a costume party resulting in this remarkable variety of "characters." A conservative Rev. Carl Schaeffer stands at the right end of the back row, while Ted Radle is at the right end of the front row.

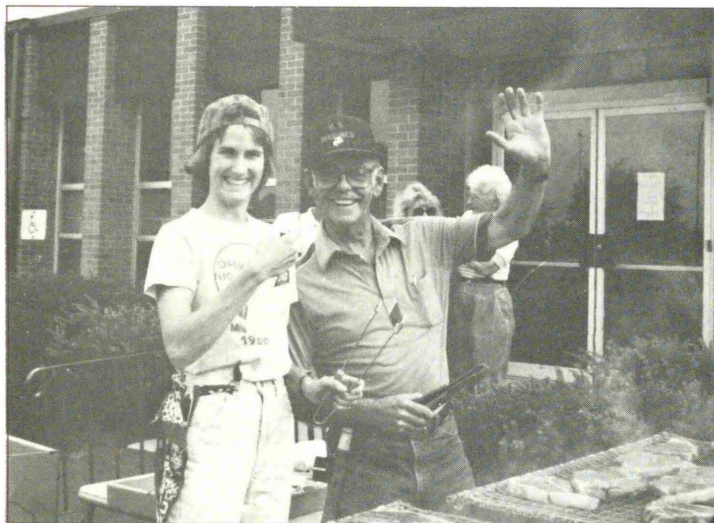
"...serve the Lord in sincerity and in faithfulness..." Joshua 24:14



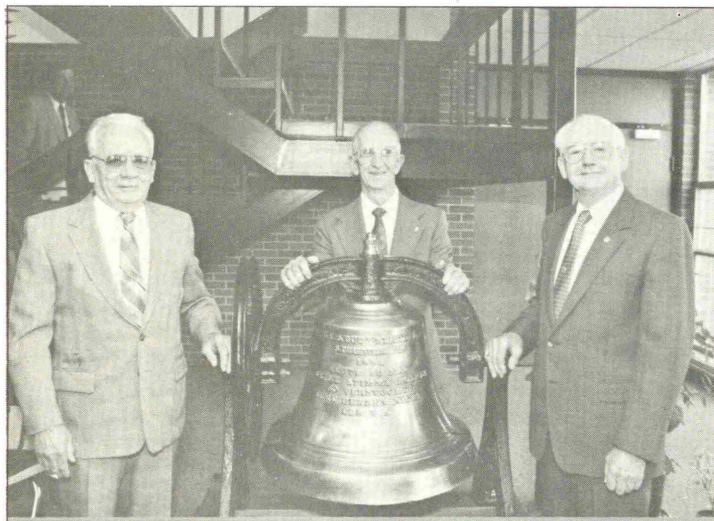
Bob Linos, Jim Grady, and Bob Beilfuss



Chili Supper



Steak Fry - Pastor Stephanie Morath, Bob Schultz.



Herb Shaw, Bill Klemm and Ed Hanish with original 1894 bell.

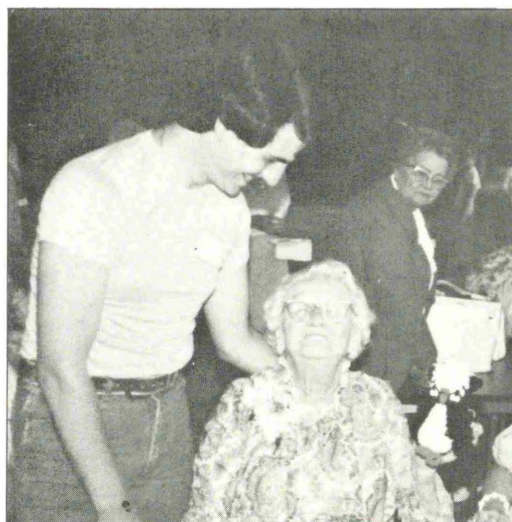


Baseball Team - 1955

"This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24



Paulene Kish, Ann Stevesand.



Jim Aumiller, Margaret Auer, Ann Peck.



Harold and Ann Hull, Warden and Lois Cutshall



Rev. Paul Schaeffer, Betsy Cole, Clarence Cole.



Rev. Schaeffer's sisters Gertrude Williams and Hildegard Beckman take stitches in the Anniversary quilt.



Florence Lesmeister, Bob Schultz at a church picnic.

History Of The Immanuel Church Choir

On September 8, 1898 Rev. Theodore Braun organized the first choir which through its music and harmony beautified the services. An early choir member, Edna Kruger, remembers in about 1915 when organist Selma Hugo, wife of Rev. Hugo, was playing on the old hand pump organ, all music stopped when one of the Weber boys responsible for pumping the organ fell asleep!

In the 1930's, Mildred Westphal both played the organ and directed the choir. This was difficult with the organ in the balcony at the back of the church and the choir and piano in the front of the church. Harold Koenig helped solve this problem since he was a piano student of Mildred's, he played the piano for the choir until he became the church organist in 1937. He continued as organist until 1969—32 years.

Ida Reneau both sang and directed the choir for a period of time. Harpist Rhinehart Elster both directed the choir and soloed. In Rev. Paul Schaeffer's early years of ministry at Immanuel he joined the choir regularly for the anthem until in 1940 when the stairs to the choir loft were moved in a remodelling process. During this remodelling the old organ, in use since 1901, was replaced with a Hammond Electric Organ, a surprise memorial gift to the church on Easter morning by a loyal church family in memory of their daughter.

Marie Bock became the choir director in 1940 and served most of the time until 1963. The choir organized with officers and dues and had many social activities.

In the 1950's when the church was instrumental in trying to start a community hospital, the choir sponsored a concert by the Hammond Civic Chorus and succeeded in raising \$311.

In 1952 Billie Beilfuss organized and directed a youth choir called the Chanceleers which was active for over twenty five years. It was instrumental in developing and feeding members into the adult choir, some of whom still remain active. A shorter lived group was the Treble Choir, a group of about 30 children to feed into the Chanceleers.

In the 1960's the choir became active in performing at extra programs in addition to their regular anthems, Christmas contatas, Lent and Easter cantatas and special summer music. They entertained at Mother and Daughter Banquets. The adult choir presented a concert "We Can't Help Singing" in 1961 and in 1965 the combined choirs, Chanceleers, Adults and Treble choirs, presents "The CATS Meow."

Money earned at these concerts was used to begin an organ fund with the hope that a pipe organ could be purchased when our new church could be built. The fund grew from a humble beginning of \$1,000 in 1967 to over \$3,000 in 1970. In September, 1969, the choir voted to transfer the organ fund monies to the church Memorial Fund but they continued activities to raise more contributions to the fund. A square dance was held to raise funds as well as a recording of "The Seven Last Words of Christ" was made and sold.

A committee was active for some time considering various organs. Finally in 1974 a Moller Organ was purchased for \$22,500 to be installed and ready for use when we moved into our new church on December 1, 1974.

During the 1970's it was a transition time for the choir as well as the church (without a home from 1971 to 1974). Several different organists and directors served for short periods of time, each contributing from their individual talents to draw the best out of the choir members.

Our current choir director, Joe Kapciak, was hired in 1977 and our current organist, Joan (Koenig) Chasanov in 1979. Both have given faithful years of service to the church to beautify our worship services and strengthen our choir. Under their direction the choir has had several inspiring presentations cooperating with other church choirs. For the last ten years as two or three churches in Highland have joined for a Thanksgiving Eve service, their choirs have joined to present a powerful anthem. For a couple of years our choir joined with the choir at a church in Wanatah, Indiana, directed by a former choir member here, Jeff Behling, to present a Christmas Cantata in each of the churches on Sundays in December.

For the past 10 years we have had the pleasure of listening to a young children's choir once a month. Rev. Dwengers' wife, Jackie, as the first director. The past several years Penny Diehl has been directing them with Larry Shields piano accompaniment. It's always a joy to see the enthusiastic children "making a joyful noise unto the Lord".

The choir continues to beautify our service every Sunday from September to June and provide individual solos or small groups during the summer.

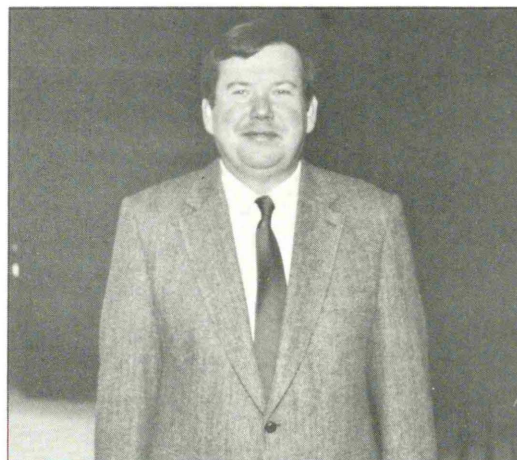
This is a condensed version of a more complete history of the Choir which is in the church history files.

Prepared by: Billie Beilfuss, Mineva Ewen, Thelma Ewen.

"Praise the Lord: For it is good to sing praises to our God." Psalm 147:1



Joan Chasanov, Organist - 1990



Joe Kapciak, Choir Director - 1990



The Choir - 1990



The Childrens Choir - 1990



The Choir - 1985



The Chanceleers - 1958

Immanuel United Church Of Christ Historical Record Of Organs



Harold Koenig - Church organist 1937 - 1969.

The first recollection was a single manual pipe organ located in the balcony of Immanuel Church at 712 Sibley Street, Hammond, Indiana. Originally it was equipped with a side pump handle at which a person other than the organist would pump air into the bellows. It was extremely important that the flow of air be very uniform, otherwise the musical sound would deviate from flat to sharp. At some time the organ was converted to electricity and the need for a hand pumper was eliminated.

The twelve pistons to vary the sound were large and had to be operated two at a time. Six of the pistons controlled the single manual and six of the bass pedals. The entire organ was one piece, that is the pipes were installed directly behind the console.

This organ was in service until 1940 when the William Hildebrandt family donated a Hammond Electronic Organ to the church. It was a two manual full bass footboard with chimes added at a later date. The sound box was located in a well behind a cloth screen adjacent to the choir loft and alter area.

Shortly after installation, an evening dedication service was conducted, at which time a representative from the Hammond Organ Company gave a short concert.

The electronic organ was in use until the church building was sold with the organ to the First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana in 1971.

When the new church building in Highland, Indiana was nearing completion, a contract was entered into with the Moller Organ Company for a pipe organ to be designed by Henry Beard and installed by Philip and David Fabry of the Moller Organ Co. staff. This organ would be a two manual, 10 rank, with over 700 pipes, to be installed in the balcony at a cost of \$22,390.

In October, 1974 the organ was installed and on February 23, 1975 a dedicatory recital was presented featuring Dr. Robert Lodine of Chicago, Illinois.

Prepared by
Harold Koenig



Confirmanden April 16, 1905 - Klasse der Evangelischen Immanuel Gemeinde Rev. J. Lebart



Confirmation Class of 1907

The class is shown with Rev. V. Ziemer. Only 10 of the names listed are pictured. Clara Becker, Max Bockmann, Anna Doehring, Anna Grimberg, Joseph Grugel, Heinrich Hamor, Hermann Jens, Margaretha Jens, Heinrich Kalwa, Alfred Kasten, Johann Prange, Joseph Sass, Frieda Schalow.

"Thy faithfulness endures to all generations." Psalm 119:90



Mrs. P. G. Schaeffer, Mrs. C. Schaeffer, Mother; Rev. P.G. Schaeffer, David and Erwin.



The Dwengers (left to right) Nathan, Matthew, Jackie and Rev. Al.



(left to right) Rev. Clarence Sitler, Rev. Al Dwenger, and Rev. Paul Schaeffer.



Janich Family Members.



Jones Family Members.



Anderson Family Members.



"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End."
Rev. 21:6

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